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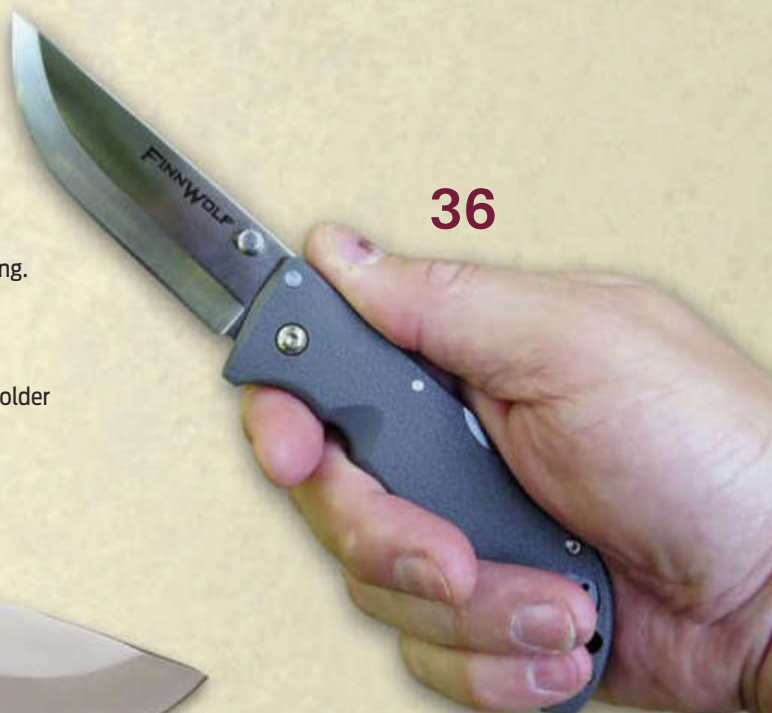
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### ON THE COVER

**KNIFE:** Behring's Red Stag File-Back Sharptail  
**PHOTOGRAPHER:** Garrett Lucas  
**DESIGNER:** Eric Knagg



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# ON A MISSION: Former SEAL Tackles Knife Making

BY DOUG JEFFREY

**THE** Southern California sun was just warming up the cozy coastal town of Laguna Niguel as we pulled up to the security gate. Gus stretched his upper body toward the intercom and called Dave.

"How's it going guys? You're out front."

"Yes, sir."

"Make a left at the first street and then a quick right. Look for the large truck."

Dave buzzed us in, and we slowly entered the exclusive community, which featured dazzling Spanish-themed houses and neatly manicured lawns. There, at the end of the street, was the Shadow Works truck, seemingly lifted 10 feet off the ground. Our encounter with two former SEALs was about to begin.

## First Impressions

Geoff stood about 6 feet 2, and the little gray in the beard defied his fitness level. He carried himself with confidence and poise.

Granted, he is retired, but Andrew's long, flowing hair didn't match the description anyone would associate with a SEAL, but the self-confidence, calmness and poise very much did.

It was obvious why both of these men had made the SEAL Teams.

## SEAL DNA

Andrew, who had driven up from San Diego, had brought some of his prized possessions with him. He placed these beautiful works of art in the lawn and proudly stood back.

Gus stepped around both Dave and Andrew.

"Mind if I move these a little?" said Gus to Andrew, without looking his way.

"Not at all. Do you want you need to do."

Gus positioned his Canon just right and snapped a few photos of the newest product from Half Face Blades.

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## VETERAN-OWNED BUSINESSES

If you know of additional veteran-owned companies, contact us at [djeffrey@engagedmediainc.com](mailto:djeffrey@engagedmediainc.com).

**"YOU DON'T HAVE TO LOOK FAR TO FIND THE ORIGIN OF HIS QUALITY WORK, DEDICATION OR ATTENTION TO DETAIL. ALL ARE WIRED INTO HIS DNA."**



After 10 years, Andrew medically retired from the Navy, and his path in life led to knives. His small business is growing, and he will soon be looking for larger quarters.

The 32-year-old San Diego resident, who was raised in Napa Valley, CA, has some Crow Indian in his ancestry, and that led to the origin of the company name.

You don't have to look far to find the origin of his quality work, dedication or attention to detail. All are wired into his DNA. **KI**



## SURVIVAL FOOD

# #1 ITEM YOU SHOULD BE HOARDING

Bad News...

Washington has an agenda, and it's MORE than just your guns and ammo.

They think people like you and me are a bit "odd." They don't understand why we keep firearms and a food stockpile in case of crisis.

But those people are just hiding their heads in the sand. They are dead wrong -- **and you are dead right.**

You've seen the evidence and you know the situation is way too serious not to do something about it. When a crisis hits, you'll be ready. You'll make darn sure your family won't go hungry.

The fact is, if you don't take action or if you stockpile the wrong foods, you could be setting your family up to starve. It sounds harsh, but the truth is too many people with good intentions are making critical mistakes with their food stockpiles.

## Mistakes like...

- ▶ Buying MREs (meals ready to eat) with a 5 year shelf life (depending on where you buy them, they could be nearly expired)...
- ▶ Getting gross survival foods that taste terrible and are so high in salt, MSG and preservatives you could clog your arteries and get yourself sick...
- ▶ Or simply buying the wrong foods and leaving a critical hole in your meal plan, which means your family can become malnourished...

Well, I decided to stop worrying. Obviously, waiting for the government to give me a handout in a disaster just wasn't an option for me. And I was completely turned off by the crazy prices of survival food sold by most stores.

So I got in touch with my buddy Frank Bates and put my order in for his Food4Patriots survival food kits.

## This is Frank's new line of survival food:

- ▶ **Food4Patriots is an incredible value.** This high quality survival food is without any fillers or poor-quality " Franken-food" that the other guys use to pad their survival meals. They are made and packaged right here in the U.S.A. You won't believe the prices on these kits – a fraction of the price that other brands charge.
- ▶ There's no fancy packaging, it's military-grade sturdy stuff and can stand up to the crazy things that happen in a crisis. This food has a **shelf life of up to 25 years**, so you have complete peace of mind for the long term. And he's using the most compact kits so you can store them anywhere in your home without any extra hassle. They're sturdy, waterproof and stack easily. And extremely covert too.
- ▶ You can make these meals in less than 20 minutes; just add boiling water, simmer, and serve. I tried 'em and I think they **taste as good or better than any other survival food I've EVER had.** And you get a whole slew of choices, including breakfast, lunch and dinner so you don't get stuck eating the same thing day-in and day-out.
- ▶ Frank has come up with some impressive FREE bonuses that are ONLY available to folks who purchase one of his kits on a first-come, first-served basis. For example, my 3-month kit came with 5,400+ heirloom survival seeds, 4 hard copy books, an 11-in-1 survival tool, and some other cool stuff.



*Protect your family in a crisis with 25-year shelf life survival food from [getfood111.com](http://getfood111.com)*

I want to make sure you don't miss out on this because **this is the #1 item to hoard today.**

Here's why... If you don't take action to get your food stockpile right now, you'll be in the same boat as the brainwashed masses who think "everything is fine." And if a crisis hits and your family asks, "What are we going to eat?" your mouth will go dry and you'll feel powerless.

But what if you decide right now to secure your food stockpile instead? Just imagine how much better you'll feel right away. And if a crisis hits and your family asks, "What are we going to eat?" you'll calmly reassure them that they're safe and they will have plenty to eat.

Listen, I can't predict the future. I don't know exactly when or how a crisis will hit. But from everything I see, it could be soon and it could be a big one. That's why I really want you to get the same peace of mind that I do.

P.S. Got a call from Frank and you'll never believe who just tried to buy up his entire supply of food! You'll be shocked!

**LOG-ON NOW TO [GETFOOD111.COM](http://GETFOOD111.COM)**



## UPCOMING EVENTS

Because the dates and locations are subject to change, contact the show managers before arranging your travel.

### OCTOBER

#### OCT. 23-25

Mt. Pleasant, TX  
Saxet Knife Shows  
[www.SaxetShows.com](http://www.SaxetShows.com)  
(918) 658-4500

#### OCT. 24-25

Portland, OR  
Portland Custom Knife Show  
[info@christinepalmer.net](mailto:info@christinepalmer.net)  
(503) 282-0877

Kenner, LA  
Great Southern Gun and Knife Shows  
[www.GreatSouthernGunShow.com](http://www.GreatSouthernGunShow.com)  
[info@greatsoutherngunshow.com](mailto:info@greatsoutherngunshow.com)  
(865) 671-4757

#### OCT. 31-NOV 1

Plymouth, MA  
NorthEast Gun Show  
[www.NorthEastGunShows.com](http://www.NorthEastGunShows.com)  
(617) 660-4722

### NOVEMBER

#### NOV. 6-7

Mount Vernon, IL  
Mount Vernon Knife Show  
[jckck@yahoo.com](mailto:jckck@yahoo.com)  
(618) 242-4514



Photo by Terrill Hoffman

#### NOV. 7-8

Slidell, LA  
Slidell Gun and Knife Show  
[www.SlidellGunandKnifeShow.com](http://www.SlidellGunandKnifeShow.com)

#### NOV. 14-15

Sacramento, CA  
Cal Expo Crossroads of the West  
[www.CrossRoadsGunShows.com](http://www.CrossRoadsGunShows.com)  
(801) 544-9125

#### NOV. 16

Marlboro, MA  
Marlboro, MA Knife Show  
[Indcain2@aol.com](mailto:Indcain2@aol.com)  
(978) 544-5348

#### NOV. 20-22

Jersey City, New Jersey  
New York Custom Knife Show  
[www.10Times.com/nycks](http://www.10Times.com/nycks)

#### NOV. 28-29

Birmingham, AL  
Great Southern Gun and Knife Shows  
[www.GreatSouthernGunShow.com](http://www.GreatSouthernGunShow.com)  
[info@greatsoutherngunshow.com](mailto:info@greatsoutherngunshow.com)  
(865) 671-4757

### DECEMBER

#### DEC. 12-13

Jackson, MS  
Great Southern Gun and Knife Shows  
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[info@greatsoutherngunshow.com](mailto:info@greatsoutherngunshow.com)  
(865) 671-4757

#### DEC. 19-20

Kenner, LA  
Great Southern Gun and Knife Shows  
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[info@greatsoutherngunshow.com](mailto:info@greatsoutherngunshow.com)  
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## KNIFE ORGANIZATIONS

**1 NAME:** Knife Rights  
**WEB:** [www.KnifeRights.org](http://www.KnifeRights.org)

**2 NAME:** American Bladesmith Society, Inc.  
**WEB:** [www.AmericanBladeSmith.com](http://www.AmericanBladeSmith.com)

**3 NAME:** Buck Collector's Club  
**WEB:** [www.BuckCollectorsClub.org](http://www.BuckCollectorsClub.org)

**4 NAME:** National Knife Collectors Association, Inc.  
**WEB:** [www.NKCALisa.wix.com/nkca-website-2](http://www.NKCALisa.wix.com/nkca-website-2)



# Knife Happenings

## News Across America

BY DOUG RITTER



### Maine

Knife Rights' repeal of Maine's ban on switchblade (automatic) knives went into effect on Oct. 15th.

### Texas

Readers in, and traveling through, Texas no longer have to worry about municipal and

county knife ordinances more restrictive than state law with Knife Rights' signature legislative effort, Knife Law Preemption, now in effect. Preemption creates uniform knife laws throughout the Lone Star State.

The new law also ensures that Knife Rights' repeal of the state's ban on switchblade (automatic) knives that was passed in 2013 will now have effect anywhere you live or travel in Texas.

### Texas Take II

The two Texas cities that made Knife Rights' "10 Worst Anti-Knife Cities in America" list for 2014 — San Antonio at #4 and Corpus Christi at #9 — have now been removed.

Removing two of the nation's worst anti-knife cities from our list in a single act is an example of what can be done when we all work together towards greater freedom in America.

### Oklahoma

Similarly, readers in, and traveling through, Oklahoma should note that come November 1st, Knife Rights' Knife Law Preemption bill goes into effect there, voiding all local ordinances more restrictive than state law. Combined with Knife Rights' Switchblade Carry Ban Repeal bill, also passed this year and which is also effective on that date, preemption ensures that switchblade carriers will be free to carry their knives throughout the state.

### And Finally

Oklahoma and Texas still have a few knife carry restrictions, including Bowie knives and daggers, remaining in state law. Knife Rights is looking forward to removing those last restrictions at the next legislative opportunity.

### DIG DEEPER

For more information go to [www.KnifeRights.org](http://www.KnifeRights.org). 



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# NEW PRODUCTS

# 1

**COMPANY:** Spyderco  
**MODEL:** C201TIBLP Vrangø  
**MSRP:** \$359.95  
**WEB:** www.Spyderco.com

This one is designed by award-winning Swedish custom knife maker Michael Henningsson, and it is named for the small island in the Gothenburg archipelago of Sweden that Henningsson calls home.

The Vrangø's most distinctive feature is its uniquely shaped CPM S30V stainless steel blade, which uses a deep hollow grind to yield an Americanized tanto-style tip and a slightly recurved primary edge.

As an avid fisherman, Henningsson found the recurved profile provided just enough "bite" to keep fishing line and net from sliding off the cutting edge. Combining the recurve with a slightly angled hollow grind created a utilitarian point and straight terminal cutting edge that is strong.

This blade is housed in a handle that consists of a full-length backspacer, handle scales, and LinerLock mechanism, all machined from solid titanium and anodized blue hue. Both scales are inlaid with carbon fiber inserts that mirror the lines of the handle profile.

To allow easy attachment of a fob or lanyard, the backspacer extends beyond the butt end of the scales and offers a generous lanyard hole. A reversible stainless steel clip attaches to either side of the pivot-pin end of the knife, providing ambidextrous, tip-down carry.



## SPECS

Closed Length	3.52 inches
Blade Length	2.51 inches
Edge Length	2.35 mm
Blade Thickness	.098 mm
Steel	CPM S30V
Weight	3.4 ounces
Grind	Hollow
Blade Coating	None
Lock	Liner
Handle	Titanium, carbon fiber
Clip	Tip down

# 2

**COMPANY:** Karambit.com  
**PRODUCT:** Fox G10 Black Folding, Fox 479-TK G10 Trainer  
**WEB:** www.Karambit.com  
**MSRP:** \$244.99

The best of both worlds.

That's what you get with this package deal ... the Fox G10 Black Folding Karambit and the Fox 479-TK G10 Karambit Trainer.

The Fox G10 Black Folding Karambit features one of the highest quality and strongest steels: NC690Co stainless steel. This provides a fine and consistent edge, enhanced edge retention and sharpening receptivity, and corrosion resistance for those far off and extreme locations. This Fox Karambit features a retention ring that can be used for blunt force impact as well as a more sure and secure grip.

The Fox 479-TK G10 Karambit Trainer is a dull version of its more lethal twin brother, the Fox 479 G10 Karambit. It also features the Emerson Wave and drilled holes, which give it the same weight, balance



## SPECS

Blade Style	Talon
Blade Length	3 inches
Steel Type	N690Co stainless steel
Weight	4.6 ounces



# 3

**COMPANY:** W.R. Case and Sons

**MODEL:** Half Whittler with

Black Cherry Bone Handle

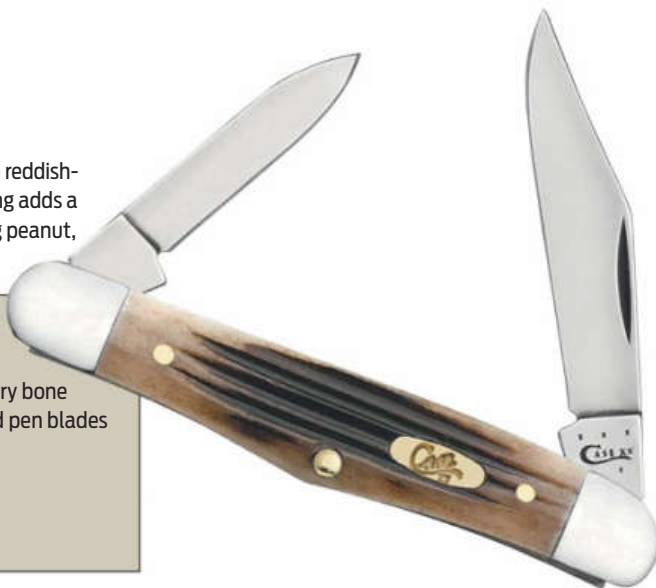
**MSRP:** \$73.99 – \$92.99

**WEB:** [www.WRCase.com](http://www.WRCase.com)

This features an authentic bone handle with deep reddish-brown tones of black cherry. The winterbottom jiggging adds a nice touch, and it's available in eight styles, including peanut, slimline trapper, trapper and russlock.

## SPECS

Pattern	Half Whittler (6208 SS)
Handle	Winterbottom jiggged black cherry bone
Bolsters	High-polished nickel silver
	Brass case oval script shield
Closed Length	3 ¼ in (8.26 cm)
Weight	1.6 oz (45.4 g)



# 4

**COMPANY:** O'Hare Custom Knives

**MODEL:** Rouge Flipper

**MSRP:** Starts at \$695

**WEB:** [www.OHareCustomKnives.com](http://www.OHareCustomKnives.com)

This classic medium-sized flipper folder runs on a bearing system for quick smooth operation. With its 3 3/8-inch blade, it carries a lot of blade for a knife with a 4 1/4-inch handle. The Rouge has a somewhat unique blade style combining the styling of a tanto and harpoon grind into one blade. The handle has double finger grooves for added grip.

This particular model is showcasing a Mike Norris SS Damascus blade, Chad Nichols Mokume bolsters, and jeweled and anodized titanium liners.



## SPECS

Blade Length	3 3/8 inches
Closed Length	4 1/4 inches
Blade Steel	Damascus
Bolsters	Mokume
Handle	Desert Ironwood
Liners	Titanium

# 5

**COMPANY:** Darex

**MODEL:** Work Sharp Guided Field Sharpener 2.2.1

**MSRP:** \$34.95

**WEB:** [www.WorkSharpTools.com](http://www.WorkSharpTools.com)

The Work Sharp Guided Field Sharpener 2.2.1 is a compact knife sharpener designed specifically for field use by sportsmen. Built-in sharpening guides ensure a consistent bevel angle across the entire length of any blade. Five abrasive steps provide the complete sharpening solution (2 diamond plates, 2 ceramic rods, 1 leather strop). All elements are self-contained and require no setup or assembly in the field. **KI**

## QUICK SPECS

5-stage sharpener  
Built-in angle guides





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DRIVING O'HARE CUSTOM  
KNIVES' SALES

BY DOUG JEFFREY

**SOCIAL** media isn't all about selfies after all. For some, it's a vital way to grow their business. Just ask Sean O'Hare.

This custom knife maker from Canada relies on social media to grow his business. Of course, it wouldn't grow — with or without social media — if it weren't for the quality product he is churning out.

In the following pages, read about his journey. And if you meet him at a show, take a selfie with him.

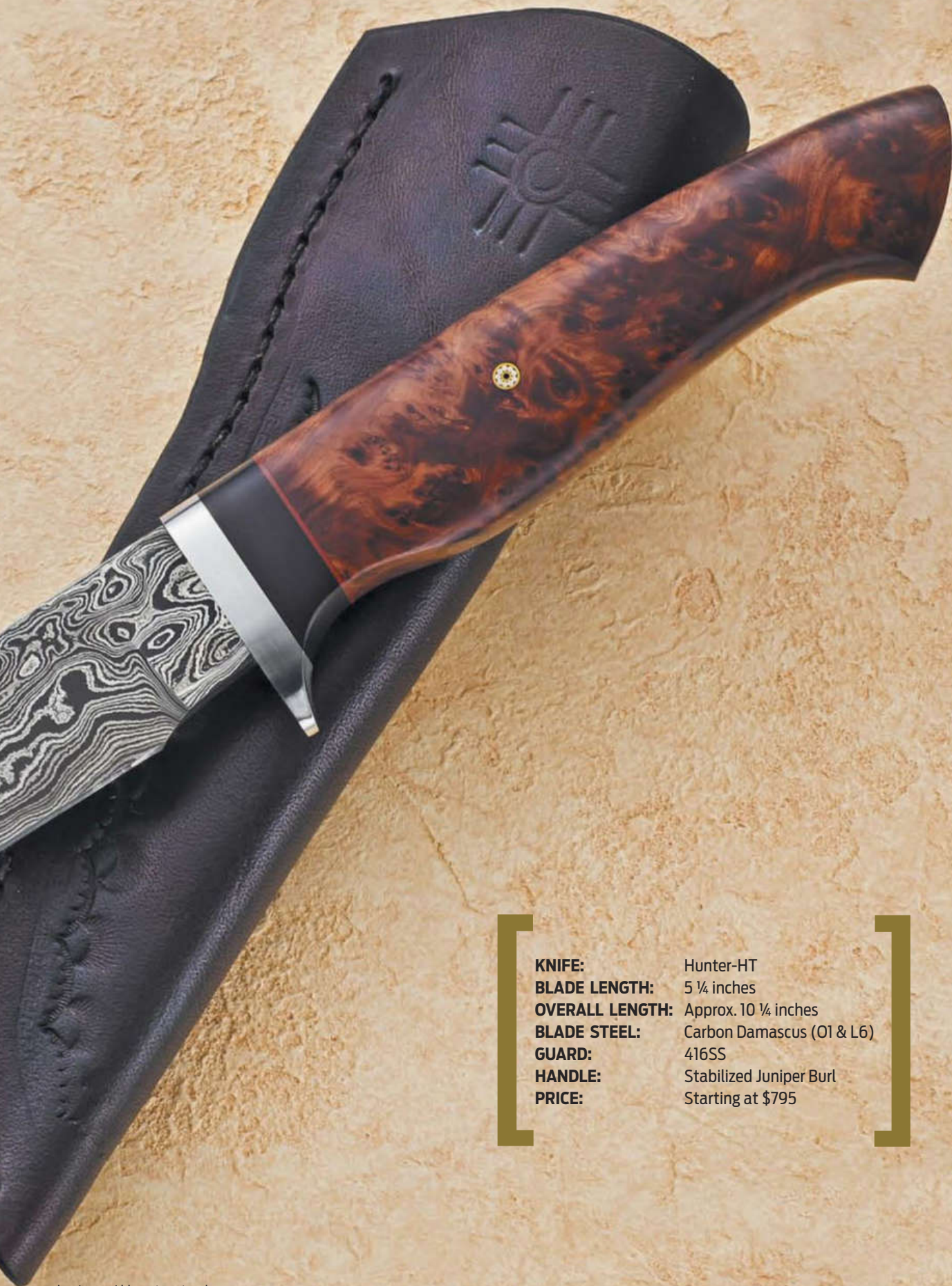
**1** Q: What is the most challenging aspect of being a custom knife maker?

A: Time! Or the lack of it! Trying to balance working on knife orders, designing and making new knives, getting ready for a knife show, taking orders, collecting sales, mailing knives, advertising my business, ordering materials, and on and on it goes. Oh, and spending time with my wife is kinda important as well.

**"ONCE I STARTED  
GETTING LINKED TO  
OTHER PEOPLE,  
THINGS STARTED TO  
SNOWBALL ..."**







<b>KNIFE:</b>	Hunter-HT
<b>BLADE LENGTH:</b>	5 ¼ inches
<b>OVERALL LENGTH:</b>	Approx. 10 ¼ inches
<b>BLADE STEEL:</b>	Carbon Damascus (O1 & L6)
<b>GUARD:</b>	416SS
<b>HANDLE:</b>	Stabilized Juniper Burl
<b>PRICE:</b>	Starting at \$795





<b>KNIFE:</b>	Splice
<b>BLADE LENGTH:</b>	3 1/2 inches
<b>OVERALL LENGTH:</b>	7 5/8 inches
<b>BLADE STEEL:</b>	CPM154CM
<b>HANDLE:</b>	Ironwood
<b>PRICE:</b>	Starting at \$350

## 2 Q: Tell us what your typical work week is like.

**A:** I generally start the day on the computer going through and responding to emails, as well as checking out some of the knife forums and social media. After that, I am in the shop for the morning. Lunch time is once again back on the computer to check emails, etc. and then back in the shop until supper.

I don't often go in the shop at night, as I find I tend to make mistakes when I am getting tired, which depending on what I am working on, can be very costly.

Because I don't work evenings, I do tend to work most days, and I usually work six to seven days a week. I try to post on social media three or four times per week, which I usually do in the evenings. Being a one-man show, like most knife makers, any time outside of the shop is spent doing something knife related,

which these days seems to be done more and more on the computer.

## 3 Q: How critical is it for you to attend shows?

**A:** I attend three shows a year. I think knife shows are still important in terms of getting my name out there and meeting people face to face, but the Internet has certainly changed how custom knives are sold.

Without Internet sales I would not be in business; however, I think I would still be okay if I didn't attend knife shows. I like

going to shows because I get to see other makers' work in person and meet with people I have gotten to know over the years.

Shows are also the few times a year I can hand pick what I buy from suppliers.

## 4 Q: How has the world of social media impacted your business?

**A:** I have been a member of several knife forums for many years and have found them to be a great way to promote my work and get in touch with other makers and clients — both old and new.

When I first started, I joined as many forums as I could, but now I tend to just stick with the ones that have shown to work best for me, which includes USN, JerzeeDevils and CKCA. Generally, I am looking for groups where people who are not makers are posting custom knives. Once I started getting linked to other

### HOW TO REACH HIM

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<b>KNIFE:</b>	No Name Yet
<b>BLADE LENGTH:</b>	4 ¼ inches
<b>OVERALL LENGTH:</b>	9 ¾ inches
<b>BLADE STEEL:</b>	CPM154CM
<b>BOLSTERS:</b>	416SS
<b>HANDLE:</b>	Stabilized Maple Burl
<b>PRICE:</b>	Starting at \$450

**"I ATTEND THREE SHOWS A YEAR. I THINK KNIFE SHOWS ARE STILL IMPORTANT IN TERMS OF GETTING MY NAME OUT THERE AND MEETING PEOPLE FACE TO FACE, BUT THE INTERNET HAS CERTAINLY CHANGED HOW CUSTOM KNIVES ARE SOLD."**

people, things started to snowball and other people started adding me to groups that do what I do.

I resisted using other social media for a long time. Social media can also take up a great deal of time so I try to limit my time on it. I do generate sales though so I have found them to be worthwhile.

## **5 Q: Tell us about your upcoming flipper designs.**

**A:** I actually just came out with two new flipper designs for this past Blade Show

so I am focusing on those at the moment.

The two flippers are my Jackal and Rambler models. The Jackal has a 3 3/4-inch sort of modified Westcliffe blade while the Rambler has a 3 5/8-inch drop point blade. Both knives are framelocks.

The Jackal so far has been finished with a hand sand blade and bright finished handle while the Rambler has been done with a stonewashed finish, but both are available in either finish. Each design is finished off with anodized titanium hardware.

## **6 Q: How are your hunting knives different from the competition?**

**A:** Although I never set out to create a unique style, people tell me that they know a particular knife is mine before even seeing my name on the knife, so in some way I have managed to make something different from other makers.

I have always liked clean flowing lines on a knife so that is something all of my work tends to have. Function is an important part of my knife making; nothing is made just for show. **KI**



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# NEW WORLD HUNTER

BEHRING'S RED  
STAG FILE-BACK  
SHARPTAIL  
IS ON TARGET  
WITH  
PERFORMANCE

TEXT AND PHOTOS BY GARRETT LUCAS

**THERE** are very few places in this country where the change of seasons can be better observed than Missoula, Montana — home of Behring Made Knives.

James Behring, the owner, moved to Missoula because of his passion for nature, and according to his website, his deep devotion to conservation and ecosystem management as well.

We had a chance to meet at the 2015 Blade Show in Atlanta, and the quality of the knives that he had on display was quite impressive — not to mention the quantity. He showed me around the different lines his company offers, including the Behring Handmade knives and the Behring Technical knives. His offerings were diverse enough to meet just about anyone's needs.

It wasn't too long after our meeting that we made arrangements to take a look at one of their handmade models, and use it for a while to review its performance, particularly for a hunting knife. The one we decided on was the Red Stag File-Back Sharptail.







**"IT CERTAINLY MEETS  
THE APPEARANCE  
EXPECTATIONS OF A  
TRADITIONAL  
HUNTING KNIFE, AND  
IT EXCEEDED ANY  
EXPECTATIONS I HAD  
REGARDING  
PERFORMANCE."**





**MSRP \$345**

The Red Stag File-Back Sharptail has a host of traditional materials, including O1 steel, stag handle, and a copper guard — all of which blend together perfectly for a beautiful knife that might have been seen a century ago.



New out of the sheath, the hand-honed edge was literally shaving sharp and required only the lightest pressure to remove a path of hair from the author's arm.

While I'm always looking for the newest, most forward-thinking technology and designs in knives, I do have a deep love for work that is more traditional and incorporates elements of nature into the package.

#### **Dimensions, Elements, Design**

There is no question that the Red Stag File-Back Sharptail fits the parameters of what one would consider a traditional outdoors knife. The hollow-grind blade is made of O1 steel, generally appreciated by outdoorsman for its ability to take an extremely sharp edge and to be easily maintained in the field.

Though the 3/16-inch-thick blade is 3.5 inches from tip to guard, its clip-point profile and razor-sharp edge makes it an ideal choice for making precise cuts while field dressing and skinning medium-to-large game, though the individual preferences of each user do come into play here. A good percentage of hunters prefer a drop-point blade for skinning game to

avoid accidental punctures; however, as with all things, the tool's potential is limited only by the wielder's experience.

As mentioned earlier, the Sharptail's construction incorporates natural materials, and the most prominent such element is the red stag handle. The natural texturing of the stag handle keeps the knife securely in the user's grip, and the curved profile of the handle adds an ergonomic piece to the equation, making the knife extremely comfortable to hold and use.

Other, more traditional aspects of the Red Stag File-Back knife includes copper, red and black spacers stacked into place for a colorful and individual touch before the copper guard is soldered into place. The knife also incorporates a large finger choil to allow the user to choke up on the knife for more exact work, and it also adds to the overall aesthetics, as well.

Rounding out the package is the leather sheath that is supplied with the knife. A handmade knife needs a hand-

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

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Appropriate to the knife style, the Sharptail comes with a dark leather pouch sheath that's built to last a lifetime, provided the owner maintains it from time to time.

made sheath, and the one provided fits the bill quite nicely. A typical pouch sheath, it boasts quality leather of a sufficient weight to provide a lifetime of service with a little maintenance here and there. The outside edge is both stitched and riveted, while the belt loop is reinforced with double stitching. No need to look for an aftermarket sheath for this knife; the one that comes with it is about all you'll ever need.

### Days in the Sun

Despite the Sharptail's appeal, it isn't meant to be a display piece. It's a user through and through, and I got a good feel for its functionality during some time in the woods with my dog, Jethro, and during specific tests meant to gauge its performance.

Fresh from the company, the Sharptail was absolutely shaving sharp. With just a couple of light brushes over my skin, I

quickly had a nice bald patch on my arm. This is exactly what you want in a hunting knife to make the job easier, quicker and safer as well. As many have heard before, a dull knife increase the chance of injury because too much force applied to do the job can result in accidents.

### Rubber Meets the Road

Round one of the testing was when I gave the Sharptail the rubber hose



The Sharptail's acute edge runs all the way to the point, making it ideal for penetrating material and starting the slicing process.

treatment, and no, that's not when I interrogate it under a hot light for hours on end. I started with a five-foot section of new and stiff garden hose to see how well the Sharptail could cut through it.

There were no problems with that test, as it only took a couple of sawing motions to cut through the hose each time. The initial bite of the knife edge's first pass through the tough outer shell got enough meat to require only one more stroke to sever the piece completely from the end. Can't ask for much better than that.

Next up was the slicing ritual. This is where I took another five-foot length of hose and sliced it lengthwise into four pieces. After that, I cut the long strips into smaller pieces until I had a nice pile of rubber pieces put together. After this second test, I tried the shaving test on my arm again. The edge didn't exactly scare the hairs off like it did the first time, but I was still able to get a close shave again.

Getting that result, I went through the same process again with two more five-foot sections of hose. The process was simple: Slice the hose in half. Slice the two halves in half again. Once finished, cut the slices into smaller pieces, like dicing celery, once more. By the time I was done, I had gone through 20 feet of water hose, and it wasn't until then that the edge was not quite sharp enough for another shave.

### The Box Test

Just about the toughest thing on a knife's edge is cutting cardboard, and that's something there's no shortage of at my house with all the boxes that come in. Having completed the rubber hose phase, the edge needed to be touched up again before I started cutting up boxes.

A general consensus on hunting knives is that the steel should be able to be easily maintained in the field. Therein lies the rub. O1 is a great steel choice in this regard, however, my knife sharpening skills aren't the best — especially in the field.

I have certain implements and appliances at home that make the sharpening process a bit more foolproof and effective for someone like me, but when it comes to using a whetstone or ceramic stones or sticks, it's a coin toss as to whether I'll be able to chop butter when I'm done.

The Sharptail's deep hollow grind is a common one used for hunting knives because it helps it take a razor-sharp edge, which is ideal for skinning and field dressing.

## SPECIFICATIONS

**OVERALL LENGTH:** 8.25 inches

**BLADE LENGTH:** 3.5 inches

**BLADE MATERIAL:** O1 steel

**BLADE THICKNESS:** 3/16 inch

**GRIND TYPE:** Hollow grind

**HANDLE MATERIAL:** Stag Antler

**GUARD MATERIAL:** Copper

**SHEATH MATERIAL:** Leather

But, keeping with the realism of the test, I dug around and found four brand new Fallkniven DC4 whetstones I'd tucked away a couple of years ago. They were intended for various kits and just hadn't made the move yet. I went to work on the Sharptail with one, and after getting the best possible edge I could achieve, I went back to the testing process.

This is a pretty simple test. Lay out cardboard boxes on a hard surface. Cut cardboard from top to bottom. Move piece aside. Repeat. Repeat. Repeat ... you get the idea. Though simple, this process quickly wears down the edge of a blade. Even so, I was able to process four

large shipping boxes (all sides), and then cut the strips into smaller pieces yet, before the edge ran out of juice. Not too shabby, if you ask me.

### About O1

Proponents of O1 tool steel talk about its wear resistance, though there are some new steels that greatly outperform it in this area. The downside of most of those steels, however, is the edges are harder to maintain. So, there's a bit of give and take when choosing the right knife for the job. But, for an alloy that's probably been around since the latter part of the industrial revolution, I was impressed with how well the O1 blade did during all the







The only thing the author would change on the Sharptail is to make the top edge of the guard flush with the handle. This would make placement of the index finger during slicing a bit easier and enable more precise control of the blade.

tests — especially since my hand sharpening technique leaves much to be desired.

Keep in mind that O1 is a high-carbon steel with very little chromium, so it is

very susceptible to corrosion. It's important to maintain the blade after each use. Make sure it's dry, and wipe it down with a light oil or other rust inhibitor between

uses. Also, do not store the knife in the leather sheath for extended periods, because leather can absorb moisture and end up exacerbating the corrosion



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**"BECAUSE THESE ARE HANDMADE KNIVES, AND EACH IS UNIQUE, IT'S DIFFICULT TO SAY ANY PARTICULAR ASPECT IS WRONG ABOUT ANY OF THEM."**



The beautiful stag handle is not only aesthetically pleasing, but it's quite comfortable as well. The wider end and texturing ensures a positive grip and prevents the hand from slipping.

process. Following these rules will help ensure a lifetime's worth of use.

### **The Final Take Away**

I was very impressed by the overall package of the Red Stag File-Back Sharptail. It appealed to me greatly on an aesthetic level as I have always been a fan of knives with stag handles, and I like clip-

point blades quite a bit as well. It certainly meets the appearance expectations of a traditional hunting knife, and it exceeded any expectations I had regarding performance. It does exactly what it's supposed to do, and does it well.

Because these are handmade knives, and each is unique, it's difficult to say any particular aspect is wrong about any of

them. But, based on my experience with the Sharptail, if I were to have one made for me, I'd probably want the top side of the copper guard to be flush with the handle rather than protrude.

There were a few instances in which I wanted to bear down on the spine with my index finger, but the top part of the guard got in the way, and created some



With the larger handle allowing more force to be directed to the short blade, the Sharptail had no problems with the water hose doughnut test. The extremely keen edge bit easily into the harder outer layer and made the process easy.





stress in the finger joint. That's just my preference. The next guy might want it exactly as it is, and that's the beauty of custom, handmade knives. You can have whatever you want.

The quality of the sheath is top-notch, and both the grind and finish on the blade was excellent. Most of all, I liked the feel

of the grip the most, along with the handle-to-blade length ratio.

The Red Stag File-Back Sharptail punches above its weight in performance; it is just about the perfect size for any need you might have during hunting season ... which is just a very short time away. **KI**

## 6 KNIFE HIGHLIGHTS

- 1 Hollow-grind blade easily maintained in the field
- 2 Makes precise cuts
- 3 Comfortable to hold and use
- 4 Large finger choil allows you to choke up
- 5 Quality sheath
- 6 Aesthetically pleasing

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# A TRIO OF **KATZ**

STORY AND PHOTOS  
BY GARRETT LUCAS

ENHANCED WITH EXTRAS AND SOLID IN TESTING, THESE KNIVES MAKE GOOD HUNTING COMPANIONS

**LIKE** students anticipating the fall semester, adults also look forward to autumn ... for a much different reason.

When hunting season lurks on the horizon, scopes have to be bought and zeroed, a new sling might be in order, or a few game calls, and perhaps even a deer stand. That's fun. And it only gets better when a manufacturer shares its latest wares.

Katz Knives sent us a few of their knives to try out for our readers. The samples they sent represent the wide variety and types of knives they have to offer in this category, including the Predator with cherry wood slabs, the Black Kat with a Kraton handle, and their Executive Stockman with a primary drop-point blade and stag bone handle.

## **The Predator**

If you're looking for some style in your hunting, and want something a bit out of the ordinary, there's the Katz Predator with cherry wood grip scales and a drop-point blade profile. The Predator is a narrow and maneuverable blade with extended jimping along the spine to allow the user to do more exact work with the index finger resting on the spine, rather than the thumb.

The blade steel is Katz's XT-80 steel, which the company's website denotes as AUS-8, a type with which most knife users are familiar. The Predator has a hollow grind, which lends itself well to a receiving a razor-sharp edge. The overall length of the Predator is 9 inches, with 4.36 inches of that length dedicated to the blade, leaving the balance biased to the handle side of the knife.





True to its name, the Predator has very sleek lines and is designed extremely well for its intended purpose.



The Katz Predator did quite well during the slicing test. It was easy to control, and the tip profile made it easier to penetrate the hard exterior of the rubber hose, a task the Black Kat was not able to do safely.



The Predator comes with a leather pouch sheath that is very well constructed with strong reinforcement points on the back, and two rows of stitching along the edge.

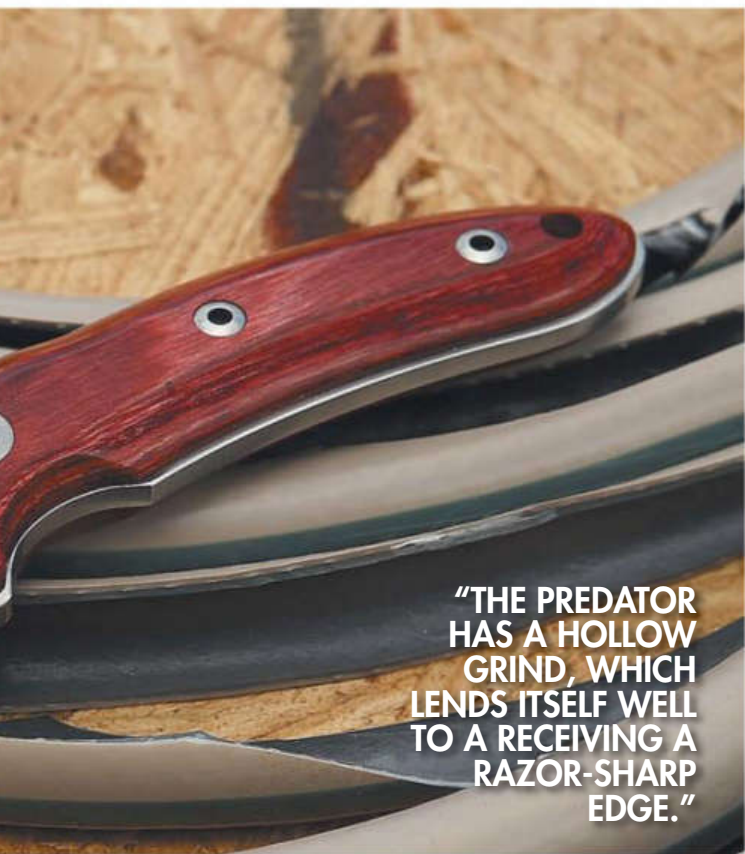


The Katz Predator has an extended length of jimping on the spine so the user can rest the index finger on it for more precise work than could be achieved with resting the thumb on the spine.



This model of the Katz Predator comes with beautiful cherry wood grip slabs that are not only attractive, but very comfortable in the grip. Though if there's concern about that style being slick when working in water or blood, another version has a Kraton handle for a more positive purchase.





**"THE PREDATOR HAS A HOLLOW GRIND, WHICH LENDS ITSELF WELL TO A RECEIVING A RAZOR-SHARP EDGE."**

## PREDATOR SPECIFICATIONS

**OVERALL LENGTH:** 9.0 inches  
**BLADE LENGTH:** 4.36 inches  
**BLADE THICKNESS:** 1/8 inch  
**WEIGHT:** 4.10 ounces  
**BLADE STEEL:** XT-80  
**HANDLE MATERIAL:** Cherry wood

Maximum blade thickness is just a shade over 1/8 inch. The handle sports a lanyard hole at the end of the wood scales — speaking of which, the cherry wood is extremely attractive and strikes a nice contrast with the stainless steel, though if there's concern about slippage in wet conditions, there's a Predator model available with a stippled Kraton handle.

### Black Kat

We did get to review a knife with a Kraton handle in person — the Black Kat. In

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The Black Kat is a brawny beast of a knife with a hand-filling and comfortable handle, and a beefy blade with a broad belly that's meant to handle the "heavy lifting."



The cutting portion of the tests allowed the author to gauge the performance of entire length of the cutting edge. The Predator was the king of this test, because of its thinner blade and longer straight edge.



The leather pouches provided by Katz Knives are some of the best quality I've seen from a company that mass produces knives. The leather is of a good weight, and the sheath is soundly constructed with redundant stitching and rivet reinforcements.

**" ... THE BLACK KAT IS ALL BRAWN ...  
IT HAS A MUCH FULLER HANDLE  
THAT WILL ALLOW THE USER TO DO  
HEAVY-DUTY WORK ..."**

almost all regards, the Black Kat is the opposite of the Predator. Rather than having a slender and narrow profile like the Predator, the Black Kat is all brawn. It has a thicker, 3/16-inch blade, and it has a much fuller handle that will allow the user to do heavy-duty work. It also has the extended jimping on the spine just like the Predator.

Like the Predator, the Black Kat's balance is biased to the handle end,

## **BLACK KAT SPECIFICATIONS**

**OVERALL LENGTH:** 9.5 inches  
**BLADE LENGTH:** 4.63 inches  
**BLADE THICKNESS:** 3/16 inches  
**WEIGHT:** 8 ounces  
**BLADE STEEL:** XT-80  
**HANDLE MATERIAL:** Kraton

but to a greater extent. Again made of XT-80 steel, the blade of the knife is 4.63 inches long, while the overall length is 9.5 inches long. The Black Kat also has a lanyard hole, but it is placed in the thick pommel at the end of the handle. The pommel is 7/8 inches thick, and could be used for hammering for any number of tasks.

The Black Kat is big, thick, and is intended for serious use. Overall, it weighs 8 ounces compared to the Predator's 4.10 ounces. The blade has a long, curved belly for efficient skinning, though it may be a bit too cumbersome for small to medium game, and may be a bit too beefy for precise/delicate work. However, the mass of the blade can be used to gain leverage to help cut around and displace joints during the quartering process.





Like the Predator, the Black Kat has extended jimping for the user to place their index finger on the spine for better control of the blade.



A lanyard attachment point is provided in the extra-thick pommel that can be used for smashing nuts for dinner or pounding stakes to build a shelter.

### Executive Stockman

While speaking on the phone with Keith DerKatz (owner of Katz Knives) about the different models available, he made reference to their line of Stockman pocketknives. As the conversation went deeper, it was apparent he was proud of his line, particularly because some models incorporate a drop-point main blade rather than a clip-point blade. He said Katz Knives was the only company making Stockman folding knives with a drop-point blade.

As drop-point blades are greatly appreciated by hunters, this would be a great knife to have on hand (or in pocket) as a backup. I did a search online, and sure enough, I was not able to locate a Stockman folding knife available from any other company with a drop-point blade, though I didn't spend hours on the search.

The Executive Stockman is an attractive pocketknife, finished with stag bone, which stands out nicely against the stainless steel fittings and blades. Like the other knives we've discussed, the steel used in the three blades of the Stockman is XT-80, and the three blades are a drop point, a sheepfoot and a spey blade.



The Executive Stockman came out of the box swinging during the tests and did nearly as well as the Predator when it came to cutting "doughnuts" off the rubber hose. The Predator usually took two strokes, while the Stockman required three.

## The Inkosi



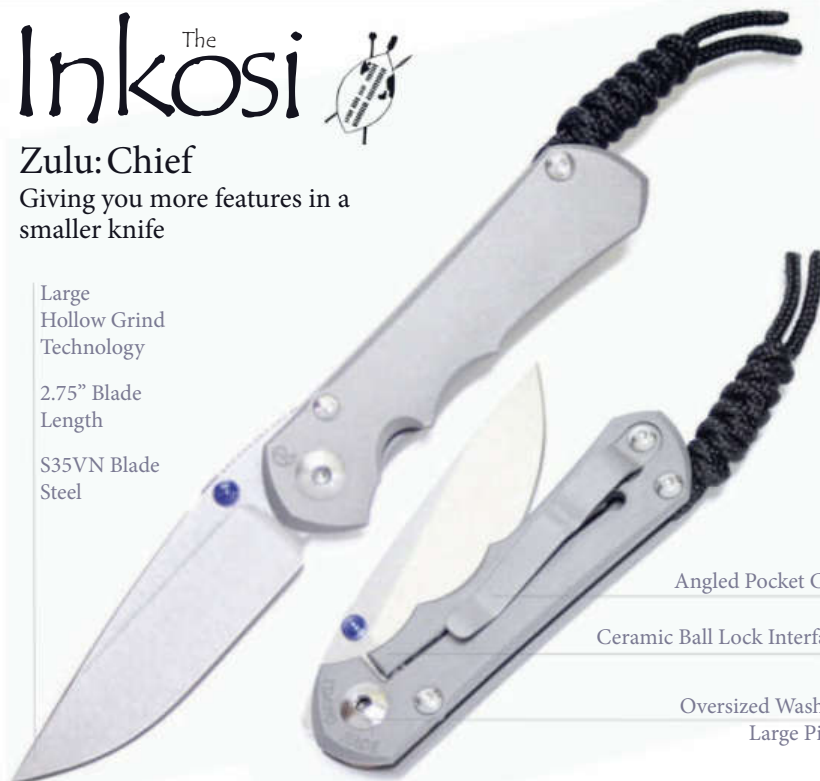
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Angled Pocket Clip

Ceramic Ball Lock Interface

Oversized Washers  
Large Pivot

*chrisreeve.com*



A rare specimen in the wild, a Stockman with a drop-point blade might as well be on the endangered species list. Rather than use the typical clip-point primary blade, the folks at Katz Knives incorporate a drop-point style, making it an excellent backup, or even primary hunting knife.

## EXECUTIVE STOCKMAN SPECIFICATIONS

**OVERALL LENGTH:** 3.75 inches (closed)

**BLADE LENGTH:** 2.75 inches

**WEIGHT:** 3.75 ounces

**BLADE STEEL:** XT-80

**HANDLE MATERIAL:** Stag bone

**“AS DROP-POINT BLADES ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED BY HUNTERS, THIS WOULD BE A GREAT KNIFE TO HAVE ON HAND ...”**

The drop-point blade has a length of 2.75 inches, while the knife has an overall closed length of 3.75 inches and weighs 3.75 ounces. Though I'm not a typical slip-joint knife user, I really like the appearance and finish of the Executive Stockman, and could easily see myself dropping it into a kit or pocket for use in the field.

### Into the Field ... So to Speak

While writing this, it wasn't hunting season yet, so it was too early to do any real testing as far as skinning and dressing game is concerned. But, I could still test the basic attributes of the knives and probably get a good idea of what would work when it's time to hit the hills.

For most of the world, knives are meant to cut and slice. Some of us would add the pry and chop functions to the list as



The Executive Stockman proved to be the best performer in the slicing tests. It was easier to manipulate during the slicing process and the thinner blade met with less resistance, making the job a lot quicker.

well, because a knife might be all you have with you when you're out and about, but we'll stick with the basics.

The first tests I did were here at the house, and while they are simple tests to do, they can give an idea of how the knives might perform particular jobs.

The first thing I did was start slicing and cutting up a garden hose, and there is a distinction between cutting and slicing. I used all three of the Katz models to cut little doughnuts off the hose. To be honest, I was surprised by the results.

I started with the Black Kat, and it took between five and eight strokes to cut a round piece of a hose, and it was a bit of an effort. In contrast, the Predator made quick work in cutting off the pieces. The Predator was able to make the cuts with just two strokes each time. Part of this I attribute to the thinner blade profile, as

well as the straighter blade edge. While the rounded belly of the Black Kat might do well with skinning strokes, the re-curved belly left a lot of unreachable edge length while cutting on a flat surface. And then there's the Executive Stockman. I also used it in the tests, and it zipped through the doughnut test quite nicely, normally requiring three cuts to hack off a piece. The blade cut extremely well, but because of its smaller size, I wasn't able to exert as much force on it as the Predator.

Katz's Stockman model really shined during the slicing tests in which I took five-foot lengths of garden hose and sliced the entire length several times with each of the knives. The Executive Stockman actually performed the best at slicing. Though I'm wary of slip-joint knives, it penetrated the hose the easiest, sliced





As with other Stockman models on the market, Katz Knives includes a sheepfoot blade and a spey blade in its version, but adds a bit of character by making the primary blade a drop-point, a widely appreciated blade style.



The quality of the leather sheaths was excellent for a mass production company. The back side of the sheath reveals double rows of stitching at the loop attachment point, in addition to rivets. The leather was strong, but supple, and rode comfortably.

the quickest and could be manipulated much more precisely than the other blades.

Here we are in 2015, still trying to find the latest and greatest in cutlery, when a design that was around during our grandfathers' and great-grandfathers' times is standing toe to toe with modern day blades three to five times its size.

Unfortunately, the Black Kat just wasn't suited for the hose-slicing test. The width of the point and the blade prevented safe penetration of the hose material to start slicing. That's not to say it would have the

same difficulty with animal skin, because that would be less resistant, but it just couldn't compete with the other two Katz models in this particular test, and that in itself would tell me the others are more efficient for slicing tasks.

Where the Black Kat did hit its stride is when it came to doing things that required a bit more mass in a knife. As a friend said, when you're out deer hunting all week, what percentage of time will that knife be used to just field dress a deer? It will more often be used for a variety of other tasks. One of those tasks is

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when deer hunters have to clear tree limbs and branches from their view.

Despite its relatively short blade, there's a lot of mass in the Black Kat due to its thickness and width, and it actually does an excellent job of chopping and clearing limbs for a knife of its size. I used it on several occasions to chop saplings and to shear off branches, and it was quick and easy work, largely in part because of the beefy, shock-absorbent handle.

Also, with its thick pommel, it can be used around camp to build a shelter, hammer stakes and other heavy-duty work that the other two knives couldn't handle. As with all things, no tool is going to be perfect for every job. Each has its own place, and a lot of the decision-making will be based on what types of hunting knives people like, what type of game they hunt, and how they like to do things.

### The Last Word

Overall, the performance of the three knives was very good for the tasks they were designed for, and considering the price and material range they fall within. I was particularly impressed with the extras that you don't typically find with knives that are mass produced. The cherry wood grip slabs on the Predator were aesthetically appealing, and the attention paid to the quality of the sheaths was a definite plus.

Even the Stockman had its own allure with the stag bone handle and the one-of-a-kind drop-point blade not found in typical Stockman folders. These are just some of the varieties offered by Katz Knives, and there's plenty more from which to choose.

So, if you're one of those folks that like to get geared up for autumn and all the fun that comes with it, checking out the inventory at Katz Knives might just be the first step you want to take. **KI**



# A NATURAL In Its Habitat

COLD STEEL'S FINN WOLF IS A POCKET  
PUUKKO FOR ALL OCCASIONS, INCLUDING  
A RELIABLE HUNTING OPTION

TEXT AND PHOTOS BY TIM STETZER

### **THE Finn Wolf is the new convention.**

The puukko is a traditional belt knife from Finland whose origins date back nearly 1,000 years. It's generally a smaller blade designed for every day carry (EDC) and is used for everything from wood carving to food prep to cleaning fish and game.

Blades are typically in the 3- to 4-inch range with a straight spine and a zero grind, double-bevel Scandinavian grind that comes all the way back to the handle with little or no choil. While extremely handy and lightweight knives,







Cold Steel turns the classic puukko into a pocket-portable folder that blends the basic utility of the Finnish fixed blade with the convenience of an easily portable EDC knife.

## CONTACT INFO

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Cold Steel provides a reversible pocket clip set up for tip up carry.



The Finn Wolf bears a 3.5-inch blade of classic puukko design.



A pair of ambidextrous thumb studs allow for one-handed opening of the Finn Wolf.



The Finn Wolf uses Japanese AUS8A stainless steel for a mix of good edge retention, ease of resharpening and easy cleanup.

they are fixed blades; unfortunately, in today's society, most of us can't wander about with a fixed blade on our belts without attracting unwanted attention.

Additionally, sometimes it's simply easier to clip a knife to your pocket rather than strap on a sheath every time you walk out the door. If you're a fan of the puukko though, you may have had a tough time finding a folder that embodied the puukko design. There are a few of them out there, but they aren't readily available and tend to be a little pricey.

The release of Cold Steel's Finn Wolf changed all that.

### Puukko Passion

The Finn Wolf isn't Cold Steel's first foray into the puukko field. In fact, they've been making them for quite a while now in fixed-blade form (see the accompanying sidebar).

So with a background in the puukko al-

ready, and Cold Steel's proliferation of rugged folding knives, it shouldn't come as any surprise that they combined the two and ended up with the Finn Wolf, a folding puukko.

Cold Steel teamed up with custom knife maker — and one of their top designers — Andrew Demko, to create a folding puukko that would perform as well as a fixed blade.

Andrew is known for his rugged lock design, and he carries that over to the Finn Wolf with the patent-pending Tri-Ad lock that's used on many of Cold Steel's folders. The Tri-Ad operates like a conventional lock back but the internals differ quite a bit from your granddad's lock blade hunting knife, resulting in an extremely strong and solid lockup. I could detect absolutely no blade play in my sample Finn Wolf, and that's typical of all of the Tri-Ad equipped knives I've worked with.

The blade is the heart of any knife — and particularly a puukko — and one glance

### COLD STEEL'S TRACK RECORD

A few years back Cold Steel made the Sisu, an excellent version of the classic puukko. Finnish designer and sculptor Tapio Wirkkala designed it in the early 1970s.

They followed up with an extremely affordable Finn Bear, a polypro handled and 4116 Krupp's steel version of the Sisu, which is still available today.

I own and have used both knives, as well as an original Tapio Wirkkala, and I found the Cold Steel versions to be excellent. The Sisu was beautifully made and a fine tribute to the original design, and the Finn Bear is a great working tool. Basically, think Finnish-style Mora with a German Krupp's blade.



shows you that Cold Steel stayed true to the knife's origins in the size, shape and grind of the Finn Wolf. The Japanese AUS8A stainless steel blade is 3.5 inches long and 3mm thick with a traditional puukko straight spine and Scandi grind.

The zero grind edge arrived hair-popping sharp right out of the box. The Finn Wolf is fitted with a pair of ambidextrous thumb studs for one-hand opening, as well as a reversible pocket clip set up for tip up carry. The handle departs from the simple puukko handle and instead uses a modern, ergonomic design that incorporates a bit of a finger guard in the design.

The grip is made from rugged Griv-Ex polymer and is listed as OD green, although to my eye it has more of a gray/green hue to it. The handle is thin but comfortable in the hand and helps make the knife flat and convenient to carry in the pocket. Weight is a scant 3.4 ounces. The trim profile and light weight make the Finn Wolf a prime contender for EDC use and the \$59.99 MSRP makes it a blade

The Finn Wolf locks up rock solid and performs much like a fixed-blade puukko.

that you won't be afraid to use in the field or back on the block.

### Finn Wolf in its Natural Habitat

While the size and weight of the Finn Wolf lend it to every day carry, this knife really comes into its own in the field. Puukko's were primary camp and hunting tools back in Finland, and the Finn Wolf carries that legacy into the 21st Century with a few new twists.



**COLD STEEL HAS NAILED IT WITH THE FINN WOLF DESIGN WITH A GREAT COMBINATION OF WELL-THOUGHT-OUT DESIGN, RUGGED CONSTRUCTION AND GREAT PRICE ..."**



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**THE AUTHOR'S LIKES:**  
**HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FINN WOLF**

- 1 Comfortable handle
- 2 Convenient to carry in the pocket
- 3 Lightweight
- 4 Affordable
- 5 Good for slicing and detail work
- 6 Easy to sharpen



A lanyard hole is fitted at the rear of the Griv-Ex handle.

The Finn Wolf rode along with me on a few trips afield, and it performed on par with most of the fixed-blade puukkos in my collection. Because it's also a folder, I can carry it some places that I can't take a fixed blade, like to some of my son's scouting activities. Frankly, I think the "no fixed blade" rule is ridiculous, but I generally try to abide by it so having the option of a folder that works like my favorite fixed blade is a big bonus.

One of the main reasons I'm a fan of Scandi-ground knives is the ease with which they cut and carve wood. I find them extremely enjoyable to use for general whittling, doing camp craft, making walking sticks and tent pegs, or just about anything else that involves working with wood. I know folks have varying opinions on the subject, but to me the puukko is nearly the perfect knife for these kinds of jobs.

That doesn't mean it doesn't do other jobs just fine though. Basically, you can do anything with a Scandi that you

would do with any other grind. With a thinner blade like the Finn Wolf's 3mm, you still have a good slicer and detail cutter. The 3.5-inch length gives you a lot of control for detail work and balances nicely with the comfortable Griv-Ex handle.

When I was growing up, folding lock-back hunting knives were pretty common in Western Pennsylvania. While they worked just fine for game processing, the two areas of complaint I always had were that the hollow grind wasn't my favorite for camp craft, and they were sometimes a pain to clean after you finished gutting a deer and had all of the crevices filled with blood and gore. The Finn Wolf nicely solves both of those problems.

The Scandi edge has about a thousand-year history in processing game so it's hard to argue with it there, and the combination of stainless steel and Griv-Ex construction makes it easy to simply hose out your knife when you're done with the messy work.



The Finn Wolf is a lightweight and compact folder that's easy to carry whether in the field or around town.



1:1



**MSRP \$59.99**

I personally find the 3.5-inch blade just about perfect for a hunting knife, too. It gives you plenty of blade to work with but isn't so long as to be cumbersome inside the chest cavity of medium game. I find that if I can drop my index finger along the spine and end up right near the tip of the blade, that gives me a great deal of control when I am up inside an animal where you can't always see what you're doing. Wherever your finger goes, so goes your

## SPECIFICATIONS

**WEIGHT:** 3.4 ounces  
**BLADE THICKNESS:** 3mm  
**BLADE LENGTH:** 3.5 inches  
**HANDLE:** 4 3/8 inch OD green Griv-Ex  
**OVERALL:** 7 7/8 inches  
**STEEL:** Japanese AUS8A stainless  
**POCKET CLIP:** Ambidextrous pocket clip

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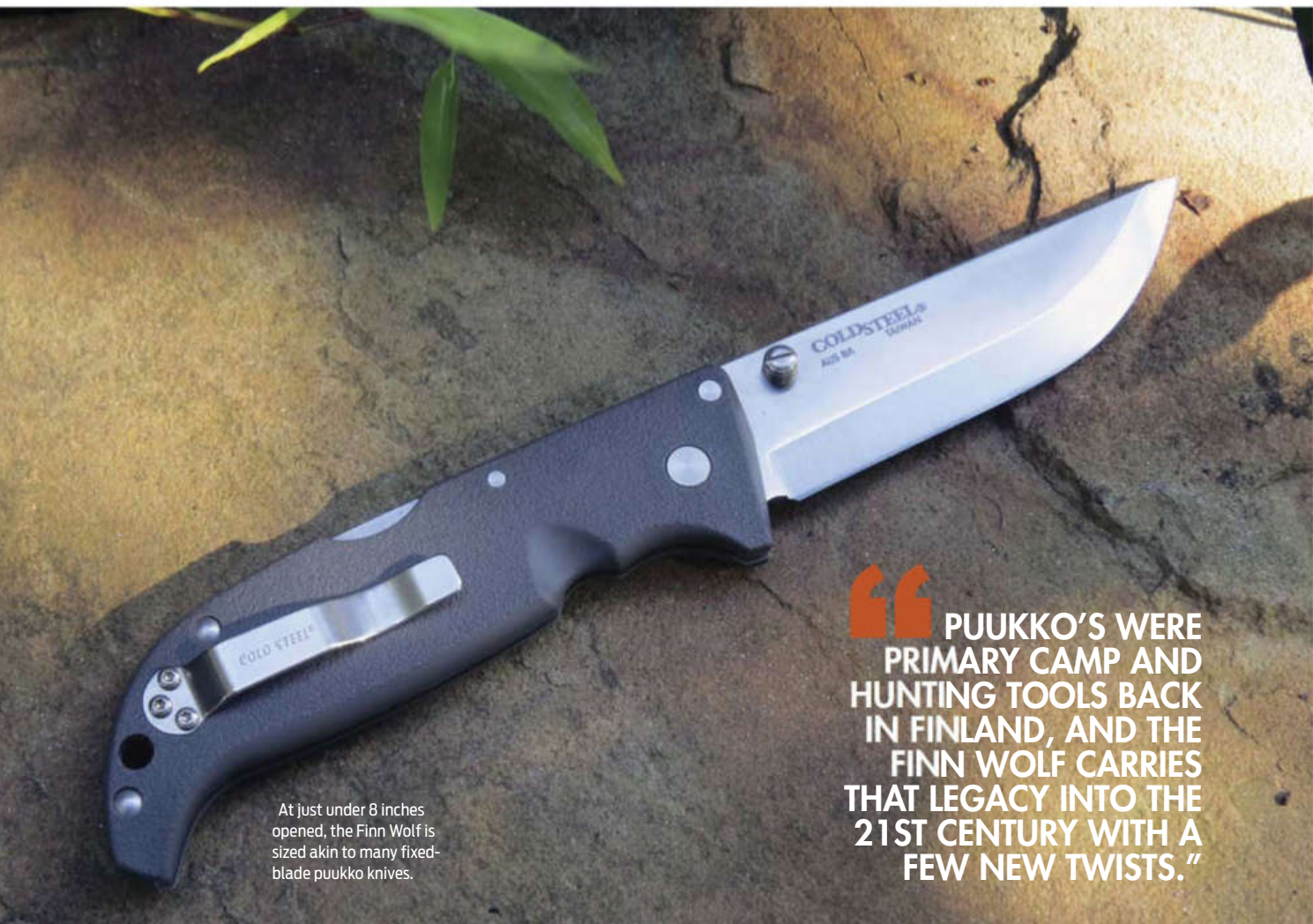


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At just under 8 inches opened, the Finn Wolf is sized akin to many fixed-blade puukko knives.

“PUUKKO’S WERE PRIMARY CAMP AND HUNTING TOOLS BACK IN FINLAND, AND THE FINN WOLF CARRIES THAT LEGACY INTO THE 21ST CENTURY WITH A FEW NEW TWISTS.”



blade. The length and straight spine of the Finn Wolf lend themselves well to this technique.

AUS8A is a proven steel that has a good balance of edge retention with ease of sharpening. It may not be one of the new miracle steels, but personally I'd rather be able to touch up my knife easily in the field with a stone or strop than have a knife that I need power tools to resharpen.

The Scandi edge is very easy to sharpen, too. Regular stropping will generally help you maintain an edge a long time and when it is time to resharpen, simply lay the flat of the blade on your stone and you know exactly what edge angle to sharpen at. They're actually the easiest style of knife to sharpen on a basic stone for me, and that's always been one of the allures of the design.

### 20-Year Search

I've been looking for a folding puukko for just about as long as I've been interested in the design, which is a little over 20 years now. I've tried





The handle contours of the Finn Wolf depart from the traditional puukko handle design but are quite comfortable in the hand.

a few options over the years but always found something lacking that kept me from using them on a regular basis ... until now.

Cold Steel has nailed it with the Finn Wolf design with a great combination of a well-thought-out design, rugged construction and great price — all in an easy-to-carry package. **KI**



Cold Steel has a long history of puukko designs including the Tapio Wirkkala-influenced Sisu and Finn Bear, as well as the newest addition to the line — the folding Finn Wolf.



Cager  
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I am steel.  
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I AM MY WILL




**STEEL WILL**  
KNIVES



# HUNTING SECTION







# SURVIVAL BASICS

THREE ESSENTIAL TOOLS  
TO HELP YOU ENDURE A  
WILDERNESS CALAMITY

BY TIM STETZER

PHOTOS BY TERRILL HOFFMAN

Respect the wilderness. Any time you step into the woods it could turn into a survival situation.

**EVERY** time you step into the woods you risk putting yourself into a survival situation.

To some, that sounds like a ridiculous statement, but if you watch the news, you'll see that every year there are a myriad of stories about hunters and outdoorsmen who get stranded because they are injured or run afoul of bad weather, sometimes with tragic results.

To be sure, there's probably more likelihood that you'll be involved in a car accident than be stranded in the woods, and we prepare for the possibility of an auto accident with safety features. A smart outdoorsman takes some of those same precautions for a hunting trip.

Following are a few simple items that can make a difference if you do find yourself unfortunate enough to be making an unexpected stay in the wilderness.



## 1 SIGNALING

The most important thing to do if you become injured and/or lost is to make sure someone can find you, and the best way to do that is to let someone know where you are. One of the simplest things you can carry with you to do that is a whistle.

A whistle's sound carries much farther than your voice, and you can continue to blow a whistle long after your voice gives out from yelling. Additionally, whistles are extremely compact, inexpensive and lightweight.

I have a zipper pull whistle (along with a compass) attached to my Gore-Tex jacket that I always take camping and hiking. Whistles are either integral to the straps of my backpacks or connected to them, and I have them in all of my personal survival kits.

## WHICH BRAND?

**1** Fox 40  
[www.Fox40World.com](http://www.Fox40World.com)

**2** Jetscream  
[www.USTBrands.com](http://www.USTBrands.com)

**3** The ACR RES-Q Whistle  
[www.ACRartex.com](http://www.ACRartex.com)

**Tip:** Look for a peaseless whistle that won't stick or freeze up in adverse conditions.

## 2 FIRE

Your next most important consideration is being able to start a fire, which can be used for visual signaling, keeping your core body

temperature up, and is useful in cooking or heating food.

Many outdoorsmen like the old standbys like a lighter or matches, but I don't like to rely on either one. Even if you have good weather-resistant matches like Lifeboat or Storm matches, you have a relatively limited number of chances to start a fire. Similarly, the large match safe like the excellent UCO models will only hold 40 matches. BIC claims you can get up to 3,000 lights out of their large disposable lighter. That's very good, and they're certainly easy to use; however, they are also susceptible to breakage and that's probably my biggest concern. A lighter isn't a bad choice, but like matches, if I'm using one (and I do have them in my kits), I like to have a backup.

**TIP:** No matter what type of fire starter you choose, adding some manmade, water-proof tinder to your pocket or pack is also a good idea.



A knife could be the most important piece of your kit because you can use it to make a shelter and fire.

My backups, or in many instances my primary method of fire starting, are a either a Ferro rod, such as the excellent Light My Fire brand fire steels, or a Sparklite Wheel Striker, like those used in the military Aviation Survival fire starter sets. Depending on which model of fire steel you choose, you'll typically get between 1,500 and 12,000 strikes, and the steels are pretty much impervious to breakage (although they still will work if you do break one), water, weather, and so on.

While they're ultra-durable and provide more than an ample chance to get a fire going, you do need tinder that can take the spark they create,

## RULE OF THREES

The proverbial "Rule of Threes" in outdoor survival is that you can live three minutes without air, three hours without shelter, three days without water and three weeks without food.

In keeping with that, consider these three basic categories of tools: a method to signal for help, a method to start fires and a good blade. Think about having them with you at all times, whenever you step off of the paved roads and into the woods or trails.

**"... EVERY YEAR THERE ARE A MYRIAD OF STORIES ABOUT HUNTERS AND OUTDOORSMEN WHO GET STRANDED ... SOMETIMES WITH TRAGIC RESULTS."**



## BEFORE YOU LEAVE

A great way to make sure that someone knows that something has gone wrong with your trip is to always let friends or family know where you are going and when you expect to return. If something does happen, the faster that someone knows that you aren't back when you should be, the faster they can get help to you.

either by finding natural tinder or through carrying manmade tinder. This is where the Sparklite in the compact Aviation kits comes in handy.

The Sparklite is super compact and adding it to the small plastic box that holds the Aviation kit doesn't add much bulk. The kits are a little bigger than a Zip-po lighter and much more lightweight. The kits have a bonus over just the Sparklite because they come with eight Tinder-Quick Tabs, which are waterproof firestarters that greatly improve your chances of getting a fire going, even in harsh conditions.

## 3 KNIFE

The last, and possibly most important piece of your minimum kit is a sturdy blade capable of helping you make a shelter and fire.

If you're hunting, then your existing hunting knife may already do the trick. It's often been said that the best survival knife is the one you have with you when you need it. That's true enough, but if you have a choice and the time to do some planning, you can probably make a more educated selection before waiting until you actually need one.

## DON'T IGNORE MODERN TECHNOLOGY

While it's a step beyond the survival basics, we shouldn't ignore modern technology.

While personal locator beacons are a great option, most folks don't have them yet, but most do have cell phones. Make sure yours is fully charged before hitting the trail. To conserve your battery, consider turning it off until you may need it. Remember, even if your cell signal isn't strong enough to get a phone call out, it may still be able to send and receive text messages.

## WHICH BLADE?

When it comes to blade choice, your options are nearly endless. There are a lot of great possibilities out there these days, from relatively lightweight and inexpensive knives like the MoraKniv Bushcraft knives and Buck Bucklite MAX models, to higher end production knives like those from TOPS, Benchmade and others. Plus, there are a lot of great custom knife makers who cater to the outdoors user, too.

Knives tend to be a very personal item for many folks, and there's endless debate as to what the "best" one might be. My general recommendation is make a choice that's easy to carry but sturdy enough to do the job of creating a shelter and prepping a fire. For me, that means a 4- to 5-inch fixed-blade knife with either a full tang or a sturdy hidden tang. That generally gives me enough

blade to work with without being a burden to carry.

Some folks definitely prefer a bigger blade and there's a good argument to be made that you can get work done much faster with a larger blade, but it does come at the expense of space and weight. **KI**

*Tim Stetzer is a law enforcement officer and outdoors writer.*

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# the DO-IT-ALL BLADE

THE HESS OUTDOORSMAN IS  
RUGGED AND DEPENDABLE

BY JAMES E. HOUSE

## THINGS HAPPEN.

When engaged in any of several types of outdoor activities, situations can arise unexpectedly in which survival may depend on having the necessary equipment and bushcraft skills. Being prepared with a few necessities can minimize the undesirable effects of such situations.

When desperate situations arise in remote areas, one of the most useful items is a versatile edged tool. Because of this, most people penetrating into remote areas have a knife of some type with them.


Knives are available in an array of sizes and styles. Ideally, a knife is selected based on the anticipated uses. If a knife is to be used in building temporary shelters or splitting wood, a large fixed blade model is best. For preparing food or dressing small game, a small knife is appropriate.

If you're in the market for a superb "do it all" fixed blade knife, take a close look at the Hess Outdoorsman.

## Under the Hood

The Outdoorsman has a blade measuring 5.0 inches long and 0.186 inches thick. Made of 52-100, a high-grade tool steel, the blade extends throughout the entire length of the handle, making the knife very robust. Overall, the Outdoorsman measures 9 5/8 inches in length. The weight of the knife alone is 8.3 ounces; with the sheath, the weight is 11 ounces.





**"IN TERMS OF FIT  
AND FINISH, IT  
COMPARES  
FAVORABLY WITH  
SOME OF MY OTHER  
KNIVES THAT ARE  
MORE EXPENSIVE."**

### **CONTACT INFO**

**NAME** Hess Knife Works  
**PHONE** (906) 428-1648  
**WEB** [www.HessKnifeWorks.com](http://www.HessKnifeWorks.com)

In overall contour, the blade is a clip point. The spine, which is nicely beveled, is almost straight for about two inches behind the point. It features a convex grind. A generous hand guard keeps the hand from sliding forward off the gripping surface.

The handle is Micarta, which produces a gripping surface that is both comfortable and secure, and the contoured handle fits the hand nicely. An enlarged portion on the bottom of the grip forms an integral hand guard at the rear. The handle also features a lanyard hole.

Furnished with the Hess Outdoorsman is a sturdy, well-made leather sheath that has a retaining strap that fits over the lower guard.

The Hess logo is embossed on the sheath on which the stitching is neatly executed. The sheath has a belt loop at the top. My preference would be for the loop to be placed lower so that when carried on a belt the knife would not hang so low.

### In the Field

In testing, I found the Outdoorsman to be a very capable knife. It is small enough to handle easily but large and sturdy enough to tackle almost any knife chore. It was also easy to handle.

While the blade can withstand the use of batoning, it is best in splitting wood that is three inches or less. I used it to split some inch-thick slabs that had been sawed lengthwise from logs, and it performed flawlessly.

I also used it to cut short sections from dry limbs that were about  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch in diameter. This task was easily accomplished with a single push, and with the width of the handle being almost  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch, it was easy on the gripping hand.

I did not perform hacking with the Outdoorsman because I like small folding saws, but the heavy blade will certainly withstand the stresses.

I would have no hesitation to take along the Hess Outdoorsman as my only knife on an extended outing.

### A Winner

The Outdoorsman is not the only Hess knife that I own, and I hope to add others to my collection. However, it is one of my favorite all around tools. The Outdoors-



The Hess Outdoorsman is indeed a knife that is pleasing to the hand and eye.



As a result of the tang being full length and thickness, the Outdoorsman is a rugged blade.



The blade measures 0.186 inch in thickness and is almost five inches in length.

### THE AUTHOR'S LIKES HIGHLIGHTS OF THE KNIFE

- 1 Robust
- 2 Comfortable and secure grip
- 3 Sturdy sheath
- 4 Performs in the field

### THE SPECS

**OVERALL LENGTH:** 9.675 inches  
**TYPE:** 4.75-inch clip point blade  
**STEEL:** 52-100  
**BLADE THICKNESS:** .210 inches  
**BLADE TYPE:** Fixed full tang  
**WEIGHT:** 9 ounces  
**INCLUDES:** Brown leather belt sheath



A generous guard keeps the hand from slipping forward during vigorous use.



A brown Micarta handle is fitting for a knife labeled the Outdoorsman.



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HANDLE EASILY BUT  
LARGE AND STURDY  
ENOUGH TO TACKLE  
ALMOST ANY KNIFE  
CHORE."**

man is a robust knife, but it is not so large and heavy to be inconvenient to use.

In terms of fit and finish, it compares favorably with some of my other knives that are more expensive.

In my collection is a knife that the manufacturer describes as "pleasing to the hand and eye," and doubtless the Hess Outdoorsman is also deserving of that praise.

With the MSRP being \$156 and the usual selling price somewhat less, the Hess Outdoorsman is an excellent value among limited production knives of high quality. **KI**



The Outdoorsman had no difficulty in slicing through this 3/4-inch piece with a single push.

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# A Warrior's Tool

CRKT'S OTANASHI NOH KEN FEATURES  
SUPERIOR WORKMANSHIP, DESIGN

STORY BY CLINT THOMPSON, PHOTOS BY CLINT THOMPSON AND CRKT

*All warriors have tools of the trade. A good blade is a must for your warrior kit. For what is a warrior without a good blade?*

**THEY** are few and far between, and they are definitely different from most.

From a young age, they were adventurous children who loved to explore and take chances. They were the children who drove their mothers to a point close to insanity by doing things others wouldn't, like fighting at school to protect a friend or weaker student. They were the people who stood up and said, "That is not right."

That loyalty to their fellow man continued to develop as they got older. Without hesitation, they would go into the night and do harm to those who would otherwise do harm to others. They will place it all on the line to keep others safe.









The Otanashi noh Ken's blade sports the Japanese kanji (writing) that means "The Silent Sword." That is a fitting name for a great knife.



James Williams, one of the world's top knife martial artists, designed the Otanashi noh Ken.

They are warriors.

Not all of them are peace officers or soldiers. Many are private citizens who may have served in the military, or citizens who simply go about their day making a living while trying to make sense of the violence all around them. Regardless of what category they fall in, they all should be at the ready with the tools of a warrior.

With its Otanashi noh Ken, CRKT is a company that can meet the needs of a warrior.

### Knife Specs

James Williams, one of the world's top-level martial arts trainers, designed the Otanashi noh Ken, a specialized knife that the SOCOM (Special Operations Command) requested. This specialized power-packed folder sports a bad-to-the-bone 4.52-inch blade with 1.5 inches of sheer terror serration. The Otanashi weighs 6.4 ounces.

When a proud owner of this knife has the occasion to deploy his or her Otanashi, all who witness this know they are looking at a warrior. Not only a warrior, but a warrior who is willing and able to bring the fight to the evil in this world.

### Uses, Functions

In addition to self-defense, the Otanashi noh Ken knife can be used for such things as opening boxes at work. It can be used to open your mail or cut your grilled steak or chop your veggies. You can even take it hunting to clean that 14-point buck. However, this knife is not designed or intended for these uses. This knife is

## SPECIFICATIONS

**BLADE LENGTH** 4.52 inches

**OVERALL LENGTH** 10.13 inches

**WEIGHT** 6.4 ounces

**STEEL** AUS 8

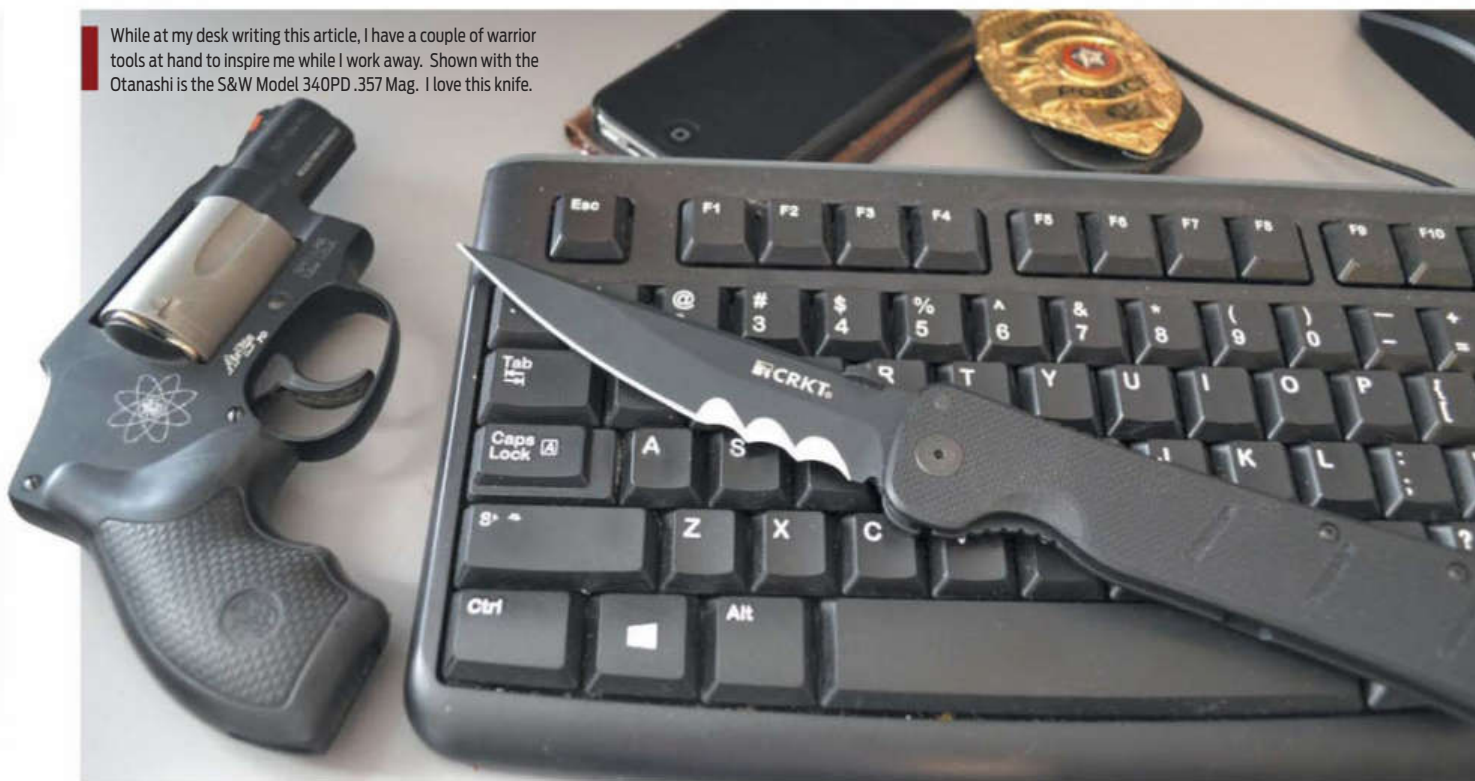
**HANDLE** Black G10

**LOCK TYPE** Frame lock plus LAWKS system

**CARRY SYSTEM** 1-position pocket clip



While at my desk writing this article, I have a couple of warrior tools at hand to inspire me while I work away. Shown with the Otanashi is the S&W Model 340PD .357 Mag. I love this knife.



designed to effect maximum lethal damage to an aggressor.

For you warriors, when you leave your home and go out into this crazy world, you will feel confident in knowing you have your Otanashi tucked in your pocket.

I carry my Otanashi as an every day carry (EDC), as well as my working knife. I love the way this well-designed knife sets deep into my jeans' pocket. Yes, the Otanashi is a large folder, but at the same time it was designed somewhat slender to leave a "negligible footprint."

### How It Looks

In particular, I have two favorite features of the Otanashi.

The first is the gradual tapering of the blade to a near needle point. The blade design is obviously patterned after the

**"I AM REASSURED THIS BAD-BOY BLADE WILL NOT FOLD ON MY HAND AS I ENGAGE THE PATENTED LAWKS SAFETY. "**

## KNOW YOUR LOCAL LAWS

You can go on the web and find many different sites with information about your local laws, but keep in mind that they may not be up to date. I suggest you call your local law enforcement agency and ask about the current laws. The knife laws are changing in most states so it is better to ask. If you are the type who wants the straight facts, call your state attorney general's office and put the question to them.

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The Otanashi viewed in the closed position. The grooves cut into the side of the handle give this large folder some gripping power.

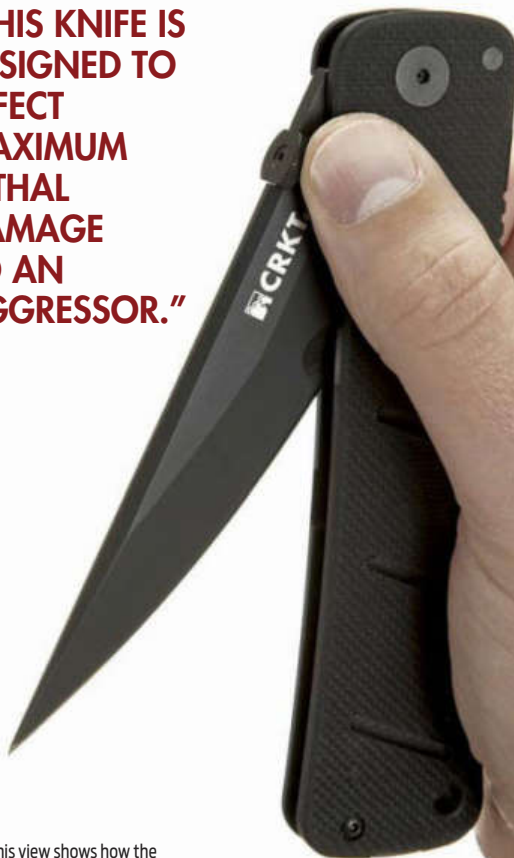


The view of the opposing back side shows how the pocket clip design allows this bad-boy knife to be carried deep into the pocket. The frame lock system is also visible.

## HOW TO MAINTAIN YOUR KNIFE 7 KEY STEPS

- 1 Cleaning and maintenance need to be part of your normal routine.
- 2 Before I go to the range, out into the field or the street, I always make sure the tools are sharp, as I need to rely on them.
- 3 When the blade is closed, you can wash this knife in warm soapy water.
- 4 Rinse it in very hot tap water and dry it carefully.
- 5 Use compressed air to remove water in tight areas, then oil the knife down with a good gun oil.
- 6 After the oiling inside and out, wipe the excess oil from the knife.
- 7 Lightly oil the blade pivot pin, and you are done.

**"THIS KNIFE IS  
DESIGNED TO  
EFFECT  
MAXIMUM  
LETHAL  
DAMAGE  
TO AN  
AGGRESSOR."**



This view shows how the very well-designed thumb stud is used to deploy the blade of the Otanashi.





The serration of the Otanashi noh Ken is very functional and awesome to behold.

16th Century samurai blade design. Even though the slender point is extremely sharp, it is amazingly strong.

The second feature is the serration, which I liken to shark teeth. For a functional sharp and devastating effect, the serration on this knife just compliments the overall purposeful functionality.

### Testing Time

Because the Otanashi is a warrior's weapon, it is difficult to find a volunteer to test this knife. For this reason, testing will be an exception this time. I am also not well-heeled enough to go out and buy a side of beef to stab and slice so as to test out the penetration ability.

However, I have been a LEO for over 40

## CONTACT INFORMATION

**NAME:** Columbia River Knife & Tool  
**ADDRESS:** 18348 SW 126th Place,  
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As shown in this view, the Otanashi is what I consider a large functional folding pocket knife. This knife's overall length with blade deployed is a little over 10 inches long.

## FOR MORE INFO

James Williams, who has studied many different martial arts systems, has trained military and police all over the world. To find out more about Williams, go to [www.systemofstrategy.com/about](http://www.systemofstrategy.com/about).

years and served as such on three continents in combat and in harm's way. I know quality when I see it, and I know what works and what does not work.

The Otanashi is quality workmanship and design.

I have carried my Otanashi sample for some time now, and I found it to carry easily, securely







The additional lock to the frame lock is the LAWKS. It provides a secondary blocking lock, which is easy to operate with the holder's thumb.

and almost invisible to those around me. I can deploy this knife and blade with ease. When deploying the blade, I hear the assuring "snap" as the heavy-duty frame lock engages. I am reassured this bad-boy blade will not fold on my hand as I engage the patented LAWKS safety, and I know this blade will stay in position no matter how hard it is used.

### The Warrior Within

When searching for a self-defense knife, CRKT's Otanashi noh Ken should get top consideration. As a warrior, you want the best. **KI**

For you warriors who make their living flying a desk, the Otanashi makes for a great companion from home to work and back again.

## SPECIAL THANKS

A special thanks goes out to Brad Carroll, general manager of Wilshire Gun in Oklahoma City, who allowed us to use his facility. For info, go to [www.WilshireGun.com](http://www.WilshireGun.com).

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# ON A MISSION

## How Life as a SEAL has Impacted the Knives of Half Face Blades

BY A STAFF WRITER

**MISSIONS** constantly varied. One might be sniper over watch. Another could be a mission with the DEA on huge drug-related targets. There were also disruption missions in which the team would disrupt an area that the Taliban controlled and used for weapons and drug smuggling.

That was life for Andrew Arrabito as a member of the U.S. Navy SEALs. Today, the 32-year-old is on a new mission: growing his company Half Face Blades.

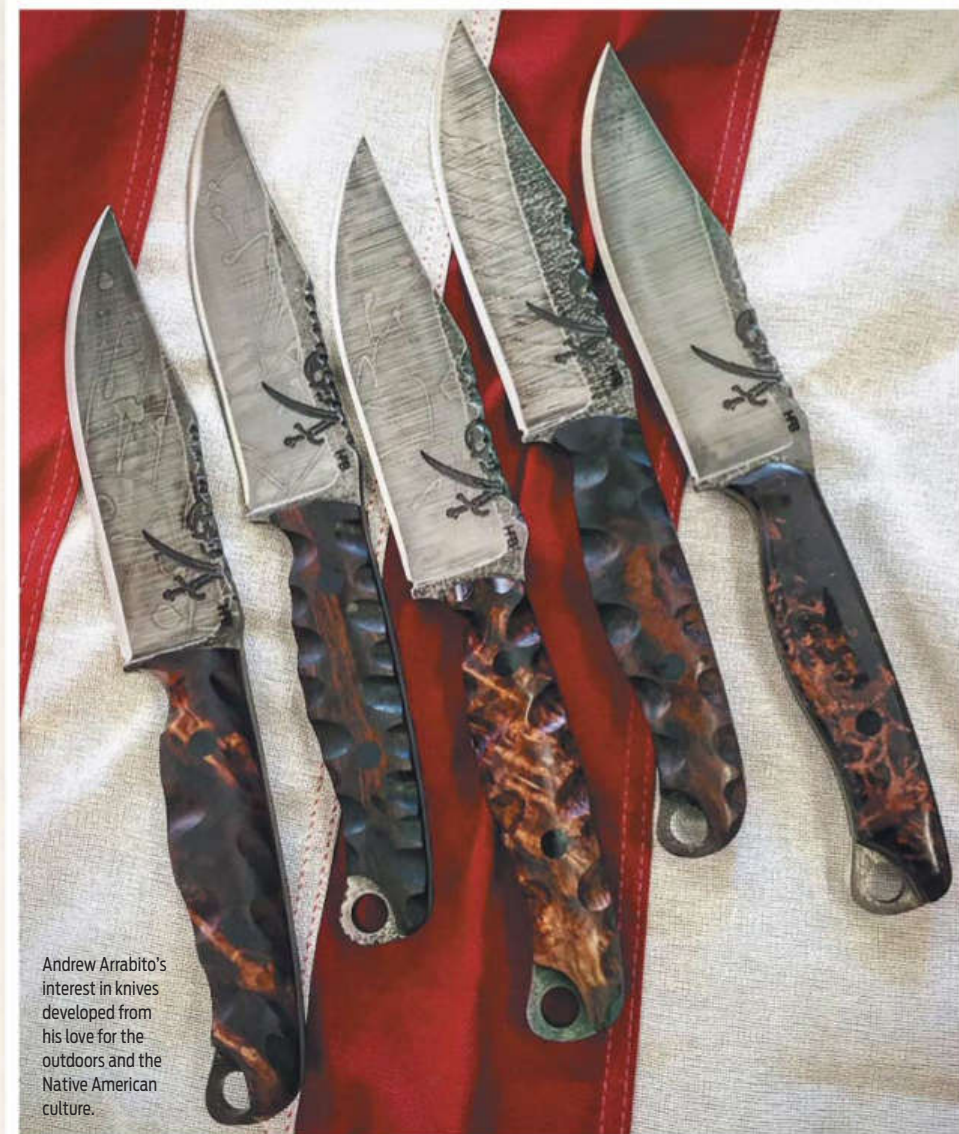
The San Diego-based knife company is a little more than a year old, and Arrabito is planning on moving into a larger facility in the near future. Things are going well.

So, how did he get here? What challenges has he faced?

In the following interview, Arrabito, who is also a stuntman and military/technical consultant, discusses his journey, obstacles and inspiration.

**Knives Illustrated: Tell us the origin of your company name: Half Face Blades.**

**Andrew Arrabito:** Growing up I had a love for the outdoors and the Native American culture. I also have a small amount of Crow Indian in my ancestry. For a variety of reasons, the Crows would paint their faces when they went on the warpath. As



Andrew Arrabito's interest in knives developed from his love for the outdoors and the Native American culture.

a SEAL, when we used horses in a mission, I would paint my face, as it portrayed my culture. I also did it to instill fear in the enemies.

I also believe in the idea that you should only show a part of yourself so you always leave some unseen. The saying, "Speak softly and carry a big stick" always seemed true.

**KI: What prompted you to go into the knife business?**

**Arrabito:** When I was young, I used to make knives on an old grinder with my two older brothers. We used them for skinning animals, camping, hunting, etc. I have always been an outdoorsman and since joining the SEAL Teams I have had a knife in hand every day.





After being medically retired, I wanted to revisit those days and really learn the art, all the while being able to provide and give back to my community a solid tool. I actually planned on making 10 at first and from there I am growing and learning the craft everyday.

**KI: When did you start the business?**

**Arrabito:** One year ago, July. I started in my backyard under the awning with one grinder and one plate of S35VN American steel.

**KI: As a new business, what challenges have you faced?**

**Arrabito:** Time. I never seem to have enough time. I am finally moving into a shop in which I will buy more equipment and hire some help to keep people from having to wait six plus months for a knife.

**KI: What kinds of knives are you making? Describe your product line.**

**Arrabito:** I started with a very simple design, as that is where my skill level was. I

stick with designs that are very useful for many different jobs and walks of life. I try to make knives that can be used and abused yet also have personality and beauty.

I enjoy hunting for my food, and the butchering aspect of it (along with general cooking) has lead me into the chef/kitchen knife side. I look forward to sitting with chefs and learning what they love the

## CONTACT INFO

### FACEBOOK

[www.facebook.com/halffaceblades](http://www.facebook.com/halffaceblades)

### WEB

Website coming soon

### EMAIL

[Info@halffaceblades.com](mailto:Info@halffaceblades.com)

**"I TRY TO MAKE KNIVES THAT CAN BE USED AND ABUSED YET ALSO HAVE PERSONALITY AND BEAUTY."**

— ANDREW ARRABITO







## INSIDE HALF FACE

**1** Steel: All knives are CPM S35VN unless otherwise stated.

**2** On any knife, Arrabito will grind the knife as the buyer wants ... tanto, reverse tanto, serrations ... and to any length they want.

**3** Customer service is a priority. "Pretty much, if it is asked of me, I figure out how to make it. That gives me a challenge," Arrabito says.

most in a bladed tool so I can efficiently incorporate usability and beauty into the kitchen or when out butchering a kill.

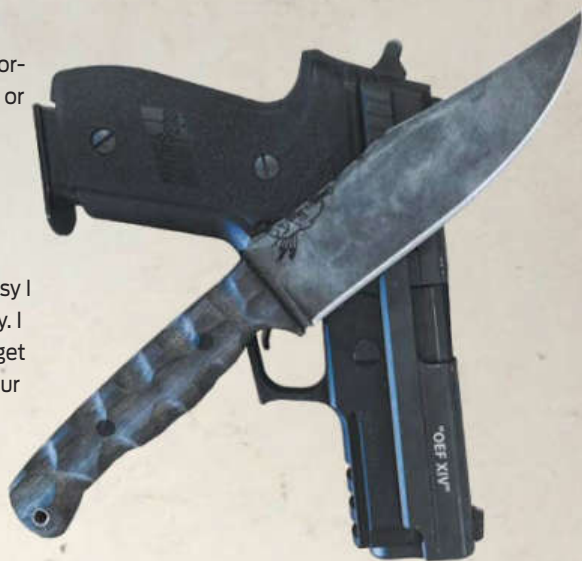
**KI: Have you had time to consider something like a five-year plan?**

**Arrabito:** I have been working on a two- to five-year plan. As of now, I have been so busy I haven't had time to sit and plan accordingly. I am about to double up on equipment and get some help so that will give me about an hour to work on that.

**KI: Describe your philosophy and what makes your knives different.**

**Arrabito:** Function and beauty, usability mixed with personality. I like to combine this rugged and rough thing with a certain beauty and honorability, such as war. Being at war can be really amazing and epic, but it can also be savage and deadly.

I want people to be able to see themselves in the tools. At the minimum, I want them to be able use the hell out of them for what they are made for.



**KI: From whom do you draw your inspiration?**

**Arrabito:** Past experiences and those I love that are here no more, as well as my future life and one day family. I truly enjoy when I fill orders from those people out there that do a job to support our great nation and their loved ones.

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Arrabito uses CPM S35 VN American Crucible steel because of its hardness and edge retention.



"AS A SEAL, WHEN WE USED HORSES IN A MISSION, I WOULD PAINT MY FACE, AS IT PORTRAYED MY CULTURE. I ALSO DID IT TO INSTILL FEAR IN THE ENEMIES."

Arrabito designs his knives to have function, beauty and ruggedness.



## MEET THE KNIFE MAKER

**NAME:** Andrew Arrabito

**AGE:** 32

**OCCUPATION:** Blade and tool designer, adventurer, military/technical consultant, stuntman, LE (ERT/SWAT)

**LOCATION OF BUSINESS:** San Diego, CA

**KI: What kinds of steel are you using and why?**

**Arrabito:** I have been mostly using CPM S35 VN American Crucible steel. I read up on it, and it is a great, hard steel with excellent edge retention. I know some knives can feature steel specifically for that job, but this steel is really amazing for my style of knives and their uses.

I have used tool steel and have some 440c. I am also dabbling with some Santoku kitchen knives.

**KI: Is one style of knife more challenging to make than another?**

**Arrabito:** Depending on angles, you really have to find interesting ways to use the grinders (belt sander). There are also different types of grinds that are better for different uses. I am learning these and what is best from kitchen to jungle.

**KI: For the design, is this strictly your work/ideas or do you collaborate with someone?**

**Arrabito:** These are mostly my own de-





Most of the Half Face Blades are Arrabito's design, but he did collaborate with other SEALs on a new knife, which is coming soon.

## SPECS

### CROW SCOUTS

10 inches overall with a 5-inch handle

### ZUES BREACHERS

9.5 inches overall with a 4.25-inch handle and 4.25-inch blade

### KARAMBIT

8 inches overall, and the blade is 3.5 inches (I grind it to 3-inches for people who want to conceal carry it.)

signs, but I have one design about to be released that I designed with some frogman buddies from both East and West Coast SEAL Teams. I am also going to sit with different chefs and get an understanding of their favorite blades and why, very soon.

**KI: How did your career as a SEAL impact your knife making?**

**Arrabito:** The use of a knife is para-

mount in every aspect of being on the SEAL Teams. It is such a great tool, and it is used daily. I enjoy hard work and using my hands to create an object that can be used by myself and others who work hard and want a tool they can depend on.

**KI: What else would you like to add?**

**Arrabito:** I am always humbled and get great satisfaction with all the support I




have had and want everyone to know the support flows through me and back out into the brothers and warriors out there — foreign and domestic — that are putting their lives on the line daily for us.

I give a percentage of everything made back to the SEAL Future Fund and other great organizations, as well as donate knives for auction to raise money for some amazing funds. Thank you for the support. **KI**


**UP NEXT** Knives coming up for semi production will be the Crow Scout Jr. It will be 8.75 inches overall with a 4.25-inch blade, all handle materials will be the old used operator cammo pants and jackets from the SEAL Teams.

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# VOODOO FOLDERS

LARRY CHEW'S INNOVATIVE WORK  
IS A SPARKLING BLEND OF  
TECHNICAL DESIGN AND MACHINING

STORY BY LES ROBERTSON, PHOTOS BY JOHNNY STOUT

**DRIVING** through Dallas, Texas you'll see just about every type of sign and billboard imaginable. Larry Chew can attest to that.

As he travelled through the Lone Star State some 27 years ago, he saw a banner at Texas Stadium. In huge letters it read, "Custom Knife Show." Although he had never heard of a custom knife show, the ad piqued his interest enough for him to attend.





### **LARRY CHEW MDF**

**BLADE LENGTH:** 3.75 inches

**OVERALL LENGTH:** 8.25 inches

**CLOSED LENGTH:** 4.5 inches

**BLADE STEEL:** S35VN

**BLADE FINISH:** Satin

**FRAME MATERIAL:** Titanium

**HANDLE MATERIAL:** Titanium

**HANDLE FINISH:** Combination satin and bead blast

**OPENER:** Ambidextrous flipper

**LOCK:** Frame

**CLIP:** Tip up carry

**COMMENTS:** Serrated thumb ramp with the VooDoo pivot

**PHOTO:** Johnny Stout



**"CHEW'S COVERT OPENING SYSTEM IS WITHOUT A DOUBT THE MOST UNIQUE DOUBLE-ACTION ACTIVATION SYSTEM AVAILABLE ON ANY FOLDER TODAY."**

While at the show, he bought a couple of blanks and some scales. He also met knife maker Jim England, who answered his multitude of questions and sold him a wide variety of equipment, which Larry used to make his first knife, a copy of a Buck hunting knife.

Nine years later, Larry Chew became a full-time custom knife maker. This is his journey.

### DESIGN VOODOO

Early in his career, Chew started using CAD (computer assisted drafting) to design knives. Shortly thereafter, he became the first maker to use thrust bearings in his folding knives, for which he received a U.S. provisional patent. Today, Larry calls this his VooDoo pivot, which features a caged bearing system that allows the bearings to roll on each other. This creates a super smooth opening for the blade on a folding knife.

### CONTINUED INNOVATION

Chew makes fixed blades on occasion,

but his true forte is the folding knife. His folders are a perfect blending of technical design and machining. There is no guesswork on his part when building a knife. His CAD design ability removes all questions about function and fit, and this is especially true on his double-action automatic folders.

Chew's Covert opening system is without a doubt the most unique double-action activation system available on any folder today. If that isn't enough, Chew was also the first maker to incorporate a flipper opener into a double-action design.

### BUILDING MATERIALS

The bulk of Chew's work is tactical folders.

He prefers high performance stainless steels, and his pick is CPM S35VN. His synthetic material of choice is carbon fiber.

Because of his machining skills, Chew is offered jobs in a wide variety of fields, which he sometimes pursues. For exam-

### LARRY CHEW ZIRCONIUM CUJO

**BLADE LENGTH:** 4 inches

**OVERALL LENGTH:** 9 inches

**CLOSED LENGTH:** 5.25 inches

**BLADE STEEL:** S35VN

**BLADE FINISH:** Satin

**BOLSTER MATERIAL:** Zirconium

**FRAME MATERIAL:** Titanium

**FRAME FINISH:** Satin

**HANDLE MATERIAL:** Silver Lightning Strike carbon fiber

**OPENER:** Flipper

**LOCK:** Liner

**CLIP:** Tip down carry

**COMMENTS:** Serrated thumb ramp with the VooDoo pivot

**PHOTO:** Johnny Stout

### CONTACT INFORMATION

#### EMAIL

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#### WEB

www.VoodooInside.com

#### FACEBOOK

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## LARRY CHEW CUJO CF

**BLADE LENGTH:** 4 inches

**OVERALL LENGTH:** 9 inches

**CLOSED LENGTH:** 5.25 inches

**BLADE STEEL:** S35VN

**BLADE FINISH:** Satin

**BOLSTER MATERIAL:** Titanium

**FRAME MATERIAL:** Titanium

**FRAME FINISH:** Satin

**HANDLE MATERIAL:** Carbon fiber

**OPENER:** Flipper

**LOCK:** Liner

**CLIP:** Tip down carry

**COMMENTS:** Serrated thumb ramp, with the VooDoo pivot

**PHOTO:** Johnny Stout



## KEY NUMBERS

**475 – 625**

In dollars, the price range for his manual folders (these feature standard materials, such as a Ti frame, stainless blade, carbon fiber)

**825**

In dollars, the price at which double-action folders start (with the standard materials)

**6**

In months, Chew's current delivery time

ple, while working in the aerospace industry, he was given access to some of the carbon fiber that was utilized in the making of the F-16 Super Eagle. The majority of his folders feature this carbon fiber, although recently he has started working with Silver Lightning Strike carbon fiber.

When requested, Chew also utilizes other synthetics such as G-10 and Micarta. Frame and bolster material is titanium, and he recently added zirconium as a bolster option for his folders.

## BEYOND TACTICAL

Tactical folders are not the only knives on the menu. He also builds presentation

and Damascus folders. A variety of Damascus is used for blades and/or bolsters. These folders will usually incorporate a variety of natural handle materials. These knives feature — but are not limited to — mastodon ivory, pearl, stag and woods. His wood of choice is desert ironwood due to its natural stability.

Chew offers featured embellishments including file work, anodizing, decorative machining and various finishes.

## SUPERIOR WORK

This talented knife maker builds a superior tactical folder. Smooth is an understatement for a flipper opener that re-



## LARRY CHEW ZIRCONIUM SLAYER

**BLADE LENGTH:** 4 inches

**OVERALL LENGTH:** 9 inches

**CLOSED LENGTH:** 5 inches

**BLADE STEEL:** S35VN

**BLADE FINISH:** Satin

**BOLSTER MATERIAL:**

Zirconium

**FRAME MATERIAL:**

Titanium

**HANDLE MATERIAL:** Silver

Lightning Strike carbon fiber

**OPENER:** Flipper with VooDoo bearing system

**LOCK:** Liner

**CLIP:** Titanium tip up carry

**PHOTO:** Johnny Stout





## LARRY CHEW CUJO FRAG

**BLADE LENGTH:** 3.75 inches

**OVERALL LENGTH:** 8.25 inches

**CLOSED LENGTH:** 4.5 inches

**BLADE STEEL:** S35VN

**BLADE FINISH:** Satin

**FRAME MATERIAL:** Titanium

**HANDLE MATERIAL:** Titanium

**HANDLE FINISH:** Combination satin and bead blast

**OPENER:** Ambidextrous flipper

**LOCK:** Frame

**CLIP:** Tip down carry

**COMMENTS:** Reinforced tip, Ti stand offs with the VooDoo pivot

**PHOTO:** Johnny Stout

quires only minimal effort to open. They feature a rock-solid lock up combined with an excellent fit and finish. Larry Chew's tactical folders, simply put, are among the best value for the money in the market today.

His combination of the VooDoo pivot and discreet Covert system should put one of his double-action folders on your short list of must-have tactical folders. **KI**

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# FUNCTIONAL ARTWORK

## THE CRKT HOOTENANNY: FORM, FIT AND FUNCTION DEFINED

STORY AND PHOTOS BY JOSHUA SWANAGON

### **I was immediately impressed.**

There I was at the 2015 Blade Show, and the Hootenanny was on display at the CRKT booth. The knife opened easily, the flow of the design spoke to me and I knew I had to get my hands on one, which is generally the case with every Ken Onion design I encounter.

Like other projects between CRKT, known for their high quality knives that fit an everyday budget, and award-winning knife designer/maker Ken Onion, whose knives exemplify form, fit and function, this one is also a winner. When these two join forces, you have nothing short of functional artwork that you and I can afford.

### **Form First**

With a closed length of 4.59 inches and a width of only 0.44 inches, the Hootenanny was almost invisible in my pocket for the weeks I carried it. But with the oversized pivot system and IKBS ball bearing system, actuated by the flipper-style opener, it can be out and deployed quickly and easily with one hand, bringing it to its full 7.94 inches.

The small pocket clip makes the Hootenanny inconspicuous and easier to deploy at a moment's notice. However, with the pronounced upsweep of the feed (allowing you to effortlessly slip it back into your pocket), I found that my shirt tends to catch on it from time to time, so I've almost yanked it out of my pocket inadvertently.









I was able to get a very clean cut on my climbing rope by simply pressing down on it with the Hootenanny.

## SPECIFICATIONS THE HOOTENANNY

**OPEN OVERALL LENGTH:** 7.94 inches

**CLOSED LENGTH:** 4.59 inches

**WEIGHT:** 4.8 ounces

**BLADE LENGTH:** 3.34 inches

**THICKNESS:** 0.13 inches

**MATERIAL:** 8Cr13MoV

**BLADE-HRC:** 58-60

**FINISH:** Satin

**GRIND:** Hollow

**STYLE:** Drop point

**EDGE:** Plain

**HANDLE MATERIAL:** Glass-reinforced nylon

**LINER:** 2CR13

**LOCK TYPE:** Locking liner

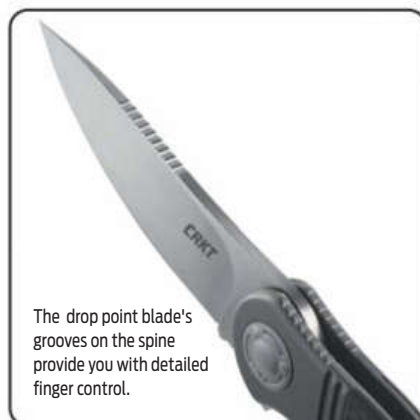
**CARRY SYSTEM:** 1 position clip (tip up)

**MSRP:** \$69.99

The lightly textured, glass-reinforced nylon handle scales give it a very grippy feel, and the 2CR13 bolster and liner make it quite stylish.

When deployed, the Hootenanny utilizes a frame lock to secure the blade in place. The 3.34-inch drop point blade has a concave spine giving it a bird-and-trout profile and the forward jimping toward the middle of the spine adds an extra level of control while indexing the blade for skinning tasks.

The 8Cr13MoV stainless steel blade lends a solid level of corrosion resistance and while it tends to lose its edge faster than high-carbon steel, it is a little easier to sharpen than most stainless steels. The high, hollow ground primary bevel, combined with the hollow grind edge, provides a low drag blade perfect for slicing chores.



The drop point blade's grooves on the spine provide you with detailed finger control.





## CONTACT INFORMATION

### COMPANY

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Tactical Operational Products

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Tualatin, OR 97062 USA

### PHONE

(503) 685-5015

### WEB

www.CRKT.com

**"WHEN THESE TWO JOIN FORCES,  
YOU HAVE NOTHING SHORT  
OF FUNCTIONAL ARTWORK ..."**

The blade also includes a small finger choil with jimping just forward of the finger guard — not common in folders, but something I was very impressed to see. I tend to utilize finger choils often for smaller work. The Hootenanny also includes jimping on the top of the bolster just behind the blade and along the top rear of the grip. It is clear that when Onion designed the Hootenanny, he intended the user to maintain a solid grip on this knife, even when wet.

### Fit

With its thin frame, I was initially concerned that the knife would be uncomfortable in the hand, but I was pleasantly surprised to find that it was a good fit. The upsweep of the pocket clip, does tend to bite into my palm just a little when I am gripping it firmly and can create a hot spot after extended use, but the handle itself fit my hand perfectly.

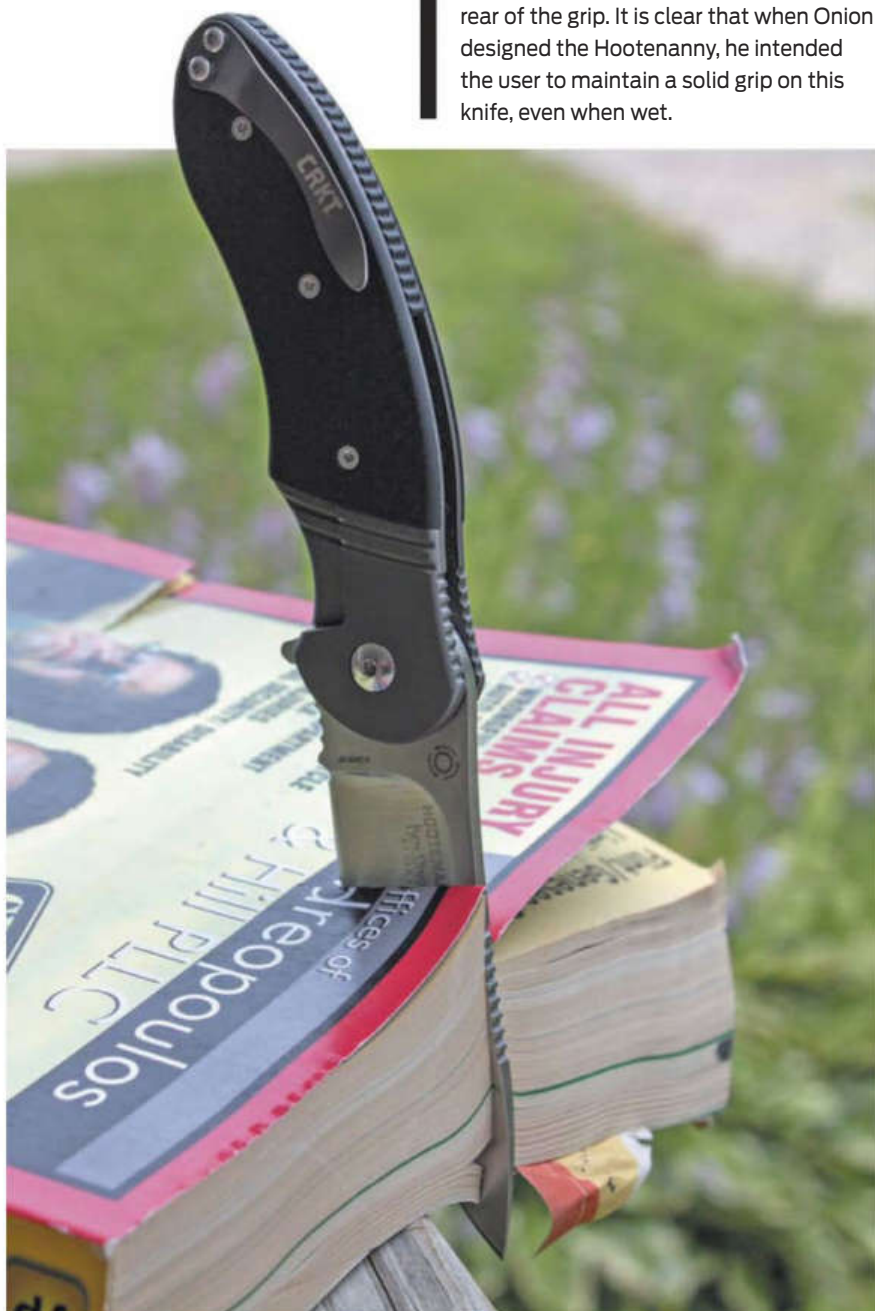
The finger choil is placed perfectly for choking up on the blade for finer work and is not over-pronounced, which would make it obtrusive or take away from the blade area. The jimping on the spine is positioned at a perfect distance down for indexing — it could have been extended a bit for those with longer fingers, although that doesn't detract from its usefulness.

### Function

After carrying it around with me for a few weeks and using it for all manner of household chores, from cutting cardboard boxes to splitting hairs, I found the Hootenanny to be an outstanding EDC pocket knife that I felt comfortable with in daily tasks and field crafting alike.

I found it to be great for making tent stakes, as a pot getter stick (for lifting cook cans out of the fire), snare parts, spare parts for my snare parts and everything in between.

Because it's a folder, I find that I tend to avoid major tasks that require rigorous blade use, due to the risk involved of the knife closing on my fingers. Even though the frame lock on the Hootenanny is very



I believe that I could have gone through the entire phone book if I wanted to.

## IKBS BALL BEARING PIVOT SYSTEM

Short for Ikoma Korth Bearing System, IKBS was named after its inventors Ikoma Knives and Korth Knives. It utilizes small ball bearings to ease opening in folding knives. This was initially invented for balisongs.



The Hootenanny is also very proficient at field crafting, and I was able to make a snare with very little effort.

**"IT IS CLEAR THAT WHEN ONION DESIGNED THE HOOTENANNY, HE INTENDED THE USER TO MAINTAIN A SOLID GRIP ON THIS KNIFE, EVEN WHEN WET."**

stable and I trust it not to unexpectedly fold on me, it is better to be safe than sorry.

### Putting It to the Test

I believe a great test of a blade's ability is to cut, so I applied my press test to the Hootenanny and cut a piece of half-inch climbing rope by simply pressing the blade through the rope and making no slicing motion at all. The ease with which the Hootenanny cut through the rope had me questioning whether I could have cut it by simply showing the Hootenanny to it and telling it to split in two.

The Hootenanny impressed me so much that I was convinced that it could cut through an entire phone book, so that's what I did. Starting at the top of

the phone book, I made two slicing motions and was able to cut through the entire width of the phone book, burying the Hootenanny until its entire profile was deep into the pages. This amazed me.

I am a firm believer that if you can't find something you like, make it yourself. For that reason, I do a lot of my own leather crafting. I generally use a utility blade for cutting my leather because I really like clean cuts, but I wanted to know how the Hootenanny would hold up to leather for crafting. I was able to get very clean cuts that I would be happy to use in any project, making it a perfect go-to tool in the event I am away from my utility blade and just need something cut quickly.

But, any review of a bird-and trout knife would be empty without cutting up some meat and general food prep. After cutting up a roast and some vegetables, I felt that the Hootenanny was on par with most kitchen knives, cutting through fat and gristle with little to no resistance and processing vegetables quickly and without any tearing or squishing of the soft vegetables. With extremely clean cuts and its



I prefer to make things myself and the Hootenanny was able to give me a very clean cut on my leather, even after all the work I have put it through.



corrosion resistance, the Hootenanny is perfect for food and game processing and would easily make itself at home in any camp kitchen.

### Gets the Job Done

I believe that every man should have at least one knife on him at all times, and it should be well-rounded enough to fulfill most of his needs (within reason). The

Hootenanny certainly did. I have found it to be so proficient in every task I threw at it that it has become my every day carry knife, and I don't see that changing in the near future.

The Hootenanny has combined form, fit and function to provide a pocketknife that is just as comfortable in the boardroom as it is in the field.

Although the IKBS ball bearing system

has been utilized in CRKT knives for some time now, I am still always tickled each time I open it. I have always been a fan of the flipper-style opener; combine that with an oversized pivot system, and you're bound to find me sitting somewhere just opening and closing it.

If you want a \$200 folder for under \$100, then you can't beat the Hootenanny and its small \$69.99 price tag. **KI**

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TYPICAL CHEMISTRY: C 1.05, Mn .50, Si .30, Cr 14.00, Mo 4.00.

THICK	WIDTH	MILL FINISH	BLANCHARD	PRECISION
1/8"	1 1/2"	AF218 \$26.95	AU218 \$32.95	AG618 \$38.95
1/8"	2"	AF228 \$34.95	AU228 \$42.95	AG628 \$50.95
5/32"	1 1/2"	AF318 \$28.95	AU318 \$34.95	AG718 \$40.95
5/32"	2"	AF328 \$39.95	AU328 \$47.95	AG728 \$55.95
3/16"	1 1/2"	AF418 \$35.95	AU418 \$41.95	AG818 \$47.95
3/16"	2"	AF428 \$45.95	AU428 \$53.95	AG828 \$61.95

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### CPMS 35VN 18"

TYPICAL CHEMISTRY: C 1.40, Mn .40, Si .40, Cr 14.00, Mo 2.00, V 3.00, Nb .50.

THICK	WIDTH	MILL FINISH	BLANCHARD	PRECISION
1. "	1 1/2"	HF218 \$33.95	HU218 \$39.95	HG218 \$45.95
1. "	2"	HF228 \$39.95	HU228 \$47.95	HG228 \$56.95
5. 2"	1 1/2"	HF318 \$43.95	HU318 \$49.95	HG318 \$55.95
3/32"	2"	HF418 \$58.95	HU418 \$66.95	HG418 \$74.95
3. 6"	1 1/2"	HF508 \$51.95	HU508 \$57.95	HG508 \$63.95
6"	2"	HF518 \$69.95	HU518 \$77.95	HG518 \$85.95

### CPM154 18"

TYPICAL CHEMISTRY: C 1.05, Mn .50, Si .30, Cr 14.00, Mo 4.00.

THICK	WIDTH	MILL FINISH	BLANCHARD	PRECISION
1/8"	1 1/2"	PF218 \$30.95	DU218 \$36.95	PG718 \$42.95
1/8"	2"	PF228 \$39.95	DU228 \$47.95	PG728 \$55.95
5/32"	1 1/2"	PF318 \$39.95	DU318 \$45.95	PG818 \$51.95
5/32"	2"	PF328 \$52.95	DU328 \$60.95	PG828 \$68.95
3/16"	1 1/2"	PF418 \$46.95	DU418 \$52.95	PG918 \$58.95
3/16"	2"	PF428 \$60.95	DU428 \$68.95	PG928 \$76.95

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TYPICAL CHEMISTRY: C 1.35, Mn .40, Si .80, Cr 15.0, V 3.85, Mo 2.95.

THICK	WIDTH	MILL FINISH	BLANCHARD	PRECISION
1/8"	1 1/2"	OF218 \$30.95	OU218 \$36.95	OG218 \$42.95
1. "	2"	OF228 \$39.95	OU228 \$47.95	OG228 \$55.95
1/8"	4"	OF248 \$75.95	OU248 \$91.95	OG248 \$107.95
5/32"	1 1/2"	OF318 \$39.95	OU318 \$45.95	OG318 \$51.95
5/32"	2"	OF328 \$52.95	OU328 \$60.95	OG328 \$68.95
1 1/2"	4"	OF348 \$99.95	OU348 \$125.95	OG348 \$131.95

### 440C 18"

TYPICAL CHEMISTRY: C 1.00, Mn .45, Si .30, Cr 17.00, Mo .50.

THICK	WIDTH	MILL FINISH	BLANCHARD	PRECISION
1/8"	1 1/2"	CF518 \$19.95	CU518 \$25.95	CG718 \$31.95
1/8"	2"	CF558 \$24.95	CU558 \$32.95	CG758 \$40.95
5/32"	1 1/2"	CF618 \$22.95	CU618 \$28.95	CG818 \$34.95
5/32"	2"	CF658 \$30.95	CU658 \$38.95	CG858 \$46.95
3/16"	1 1/2"	CF718 \$26.95	CU718 \$32.95	CG918 \$38.95
3/16"	2"	CF758 \$34.95	CU758 \$42.95	CG958 \$48.95
1/4"	2"	CF958 \$44.95	CU958 \$52.95	CG1058 \$60.95

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MILL FINISH

### 1 1/2 18"

TYPICAL CHEMISTRY: C 1.50, Mn .40, Si .40, Cr 12.00, V .95, Mo .90.

THICK	WIDTH	MILL FINISH	BLANCHARD	PRECISION
1 1/2"	1 1/2"	YF318 \$18.95	XD318 \$22.95	XD0815 \$30.95
1 1/2"	2"	YF328 \$24.95	XD328 \$29.95	XD0820 \$39.95
5/32"	1 1/2"	YF518 \$21.95	XD518 \$25.95	XD1015 \$29.95
5 1/2"	2"	YF528 \$29.95	XD528 \$34.95	XD1020 \$41.95
3 6"	1 1/2"	YF718 \$26.95	XD718 \$30.95	XD1215 \$38.95
3/16"	2"	YF728 \$34.95	XD728 \$39.95	XD1220 \$50.95
1 1/2"	2"	YF818 \$41.95	XD818 \$46.95	XD1620 \$57.95

BLANCHARD  
GROUND

### CPMS 30V 18"

TYPICAL CHEMISTRY: C 1.45, Mn .40, Si .40, Cr 14.00, Mo 2.00, V 4.00.

THICK	WIDTH	MILL FINISH	BLANCHARD	PRECISION
1/8"	1 1/2"	LF218 \$32.95	LU218 \$38.95	LG718 \$44.95
1/8"	2"	LF228 \$42.95	LU228 \$50.95	LG728 \$58.95
5/32"	1 1/2"	LF318 \$40.95	LU318 \$46.95	LG818 \$52.95
5/32"	2"	LF328 \$56.95	LU328 \$64.95	LG828 \$72.95
3/16"	1 1/2"	LF418 \$51.95	LU418 \$57.95	LG918 \$63.95
3/16"	2"	LF428 \$65.95	LU428 \$73.95	LG928 \$81.95

PRECISION  
GROUND

### CPM REX M4 18"

TYPICAL CHEMISTRY: C 1.42, Mn .30, Si .06, Cr 4.00, Mo 5.25, V 4.00, W 5.5.

THICK	WIDTH	MILL FINISH	BLANCHARD	PRECISION
3/16"	1 1/2"	JF418 \$40.95		
3/16"	2"	JF428 \$52.95		
3/16"	4"	JF448 \$99.95		
1. "	1 1/2"	JF518 \$52.95		
1/4"	2"	JF528 \$70.95		
1 1/2"	4"	JF548 \$134.95		

### CPM D2 18"

TYPICAL CHEMISTRY: C 1.50, Mn .40, Si .40, Cr 12.00, Mo .90, V .95.

THICK	WIDTH	MILL FINISH	BLANCHARD	PRECISION
1/8"	1 1/2"	ZF218 \$26.95	ZU218 \$32.95	ZG218 \$38.95
1/8"	2"	ZF228 \$34.95	ZU228 \$42.95	ZG228 \$50.95
5/32"	1 1/2"	ZF318 \$28.95	ZU318 \$34.95	ZG318 \$40.95
5/32"	2"	ZF328 \$39.95	ZU328 \$47.95	ZG328 \$55.95
3/16"	1 1/2"	ZF418 \$35.95	ZU418 \$41.95	ZG418 \$47.95
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3/16"	1 1/2"	VF718 \$43.95	VU718 \$49.95	VG718 \$55.95
3/16"	2"	VF728 \$57.95	VU728 \$63.95	VG728 \$69.95
3/16"	4"	VF748 \$113.95	VU748 \$129.95	VG748 \$145.95
1. "	1 1/2"	VF918 \$55.95	VU918 \$61.95	VG918 \$67.95
1. "	2"	VF928 \$73.95	VU928 \$81.95	VG928 \$89.95
"	4"	VF948 \$143.95	VU948 \$159.95	VG948 \$175.95

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NA72036	2" x 72"	36	12.50
NA72050	2" x 72"	50	12.50
NA72060	2" x 72"	60	9.95
NA72080	2" x 72"	80	9.95
NA72120	2" x 72"	120	9.25
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CAT.#	DESCRIPTION	PRICE
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Heat treating tongs are manufactured from special low carbon steel for lasting strength. Will not become brittle when quenched in water.

CAT.#	DESCRIPTION	PRICE
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NC772	2 lb. Hammer	49.95
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Simple to use; place blade or other part in the Tool Steep Wrap; fold over and crimp edges forming an air tight package; place in oven and heat treat according to metal directions. Place a small chip of wood inside the foil packet to help burn up oxygen inside the wrap. Use only once. Cuts easily with scissors. Size .002" x 12" x 25'.

CAT.#	DESCRIPTION	PRICE
KF321	1900° 321 Foil	47.95
KF309	2200° 309 Foil	64.95

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CAT.#	DESCRIPTION	PRICE
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CAT.#	SIZE	GRIT	PRICE
KS080	2" x 72"	80	5.95
KS100	2" x 72"	120	5.95
KS101	2" x 72"	180	5.95
KS102	2" x 72"	220	5.95
KS103	2" x 72"	320	5.95
KS104	2" x 72"	400	5.95



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Very Fine = 400-600 grit  
Super Fine = 800-1,000 grit.

CAT.#	SIZE	GRIT	PRICE
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# Inspired By Greatness

## THE DRIVING FORCE BEHIND CHRISTOPHER APODACA'S HANDMADE KNIVES

STORY BY JOSHUA SWANAGON – PHOTOS BY CHRISTOPHER APODACA

**NEVER** heard of Stanley, New Mexico before? That's not too surprising, considering it only has a population of 70.



Christopher Apodaca began his knife journey six years ago.

But nestled in this small community is Christopher Apodaca, who will make you take note of the little neighborhood. Following are 8 facts about this new knife maker.

### 1 BEFORE THE KNIVES

Prior to making his own knives, Apodaca always made custom handle scales and sheaths for knives he purchased.

### 2 THE JOURNEY BEGINS

In 2009, Apodaca decided to take the journey of making his own

knives after he and his brother made an 18-inch Bowie knife out of a scrap piece of spring steel. Although he said it wasn't anything to look at and was unusable, it sparked a passion in him that carries on to this day.

### 3 SEEKING GREATNESS

The work of makers such as Ken Onion, Spencer Aplin and Pete Sloan have inspired him.

### 4 HIS PHILOSOPHY

Apodaca believes that utility and art can go hand in hand.



Ken Onion, among others, inspired Apodaca.

### 5 MATERIAL PREFERENCE

Combined with its excellent edge-retention capabilities, Apodaca prefers working with 1095 high carbon steel for its ease of maintenance and sharpening in the field.

### 6 HANDLE MATERIAL

Although he has experimented with many different traditional materials for handle scales, he prefers to use exotic woods like bocote, wenge and leopard wood because of their great character.

### 7 FOCUS ON UNIQUENESS

Considering his craft an art, Apodaca prides himself on the fact that all of his knives are custom and tries to avoid making "models," giving each blade its own personality. Because he enjoys using acid etching to make each knife stand alone, they are often confused as being forged.

### 8 REQUESTS

He does take customer requests from time to time, but he may decline a design if he isn't inspired by it. But not to worry, as he has many of his own designs from which you can choose. **KI**

### GET SOCIAL

Find Christopher Apodaca Handmade Knives online at [www.facebook.com/ApodacaHandmadeKnives](http://www.facebook.com/ApodacaHandmadeKnives).



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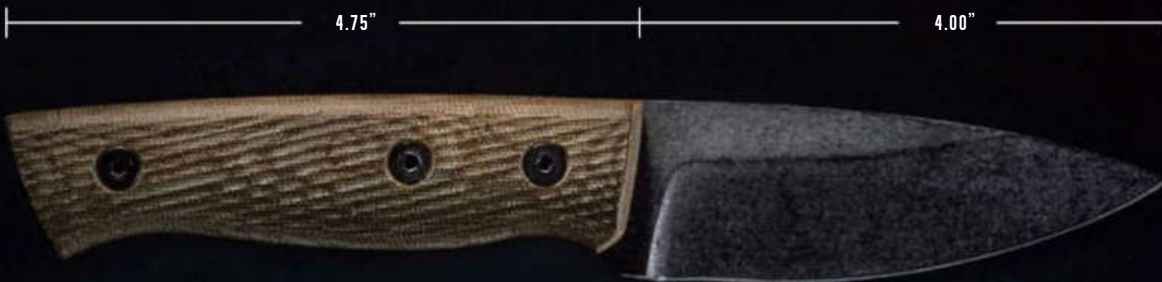
## RUNT

high-grade Crucible CPM S35VN  
stainless steel with a tumbled finish



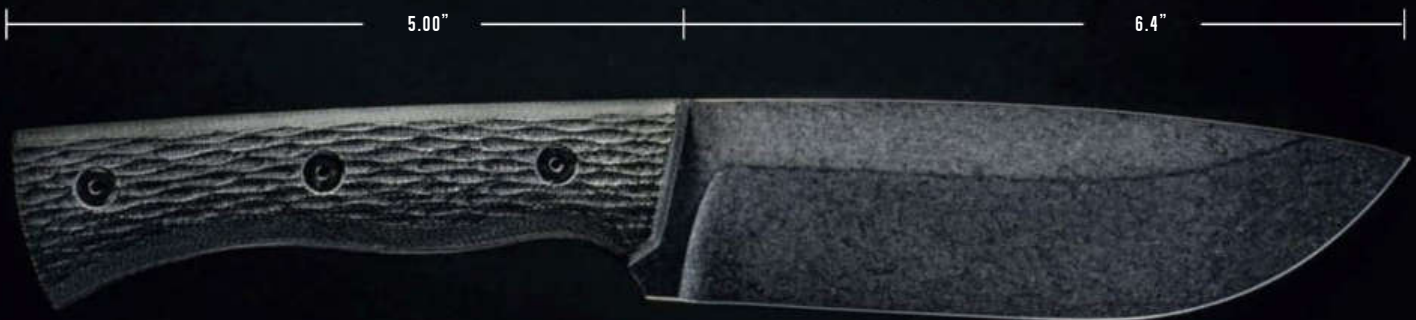
## HIKING BUDDY

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stainless steel with a tumbled finish



## BUSHFINGER

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